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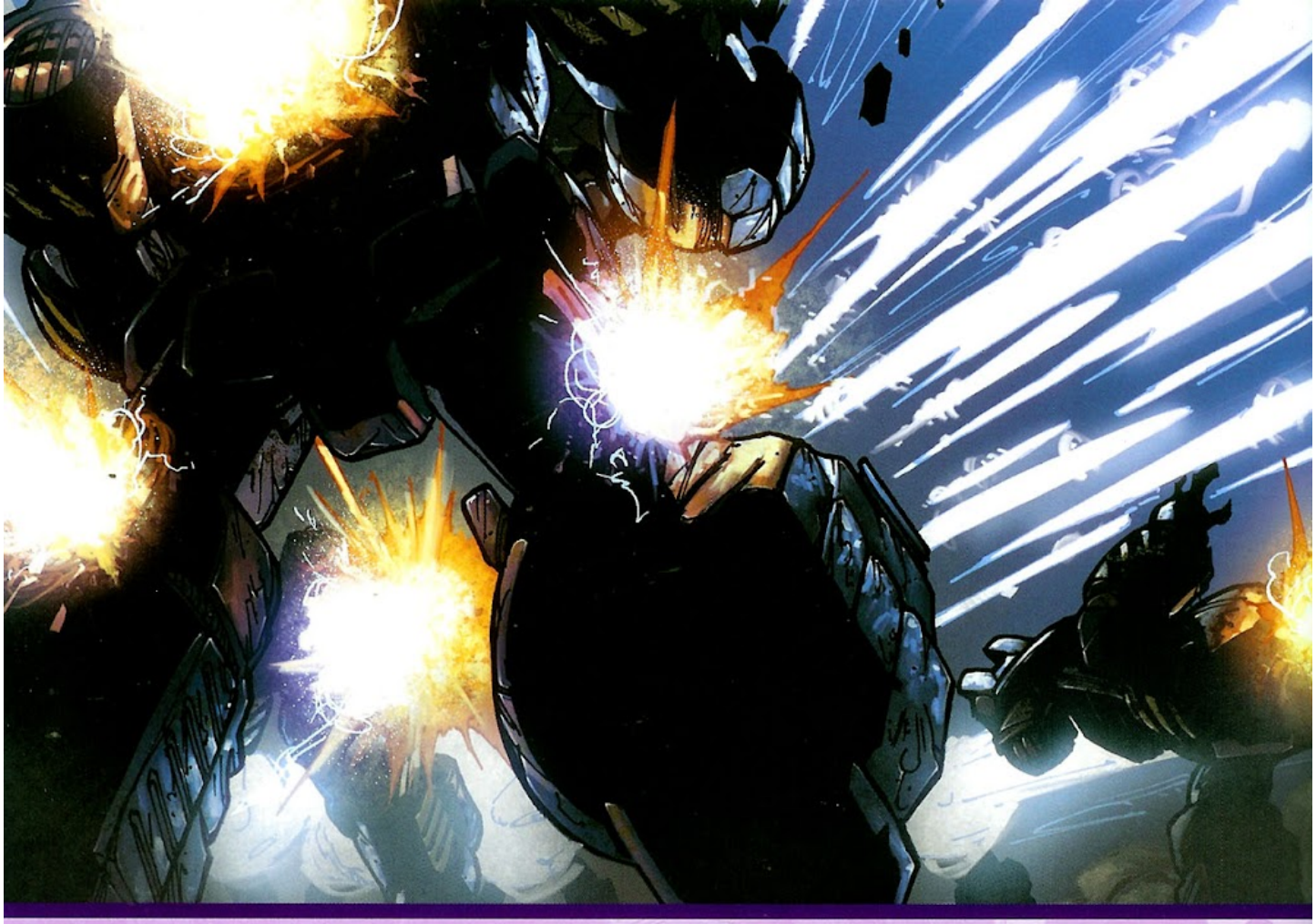

THE TRANSFORMERS: MEGATRON ORIGIN

WRITTEN BY ERIC HOLMES
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EDITS BY CHRIS RYALL

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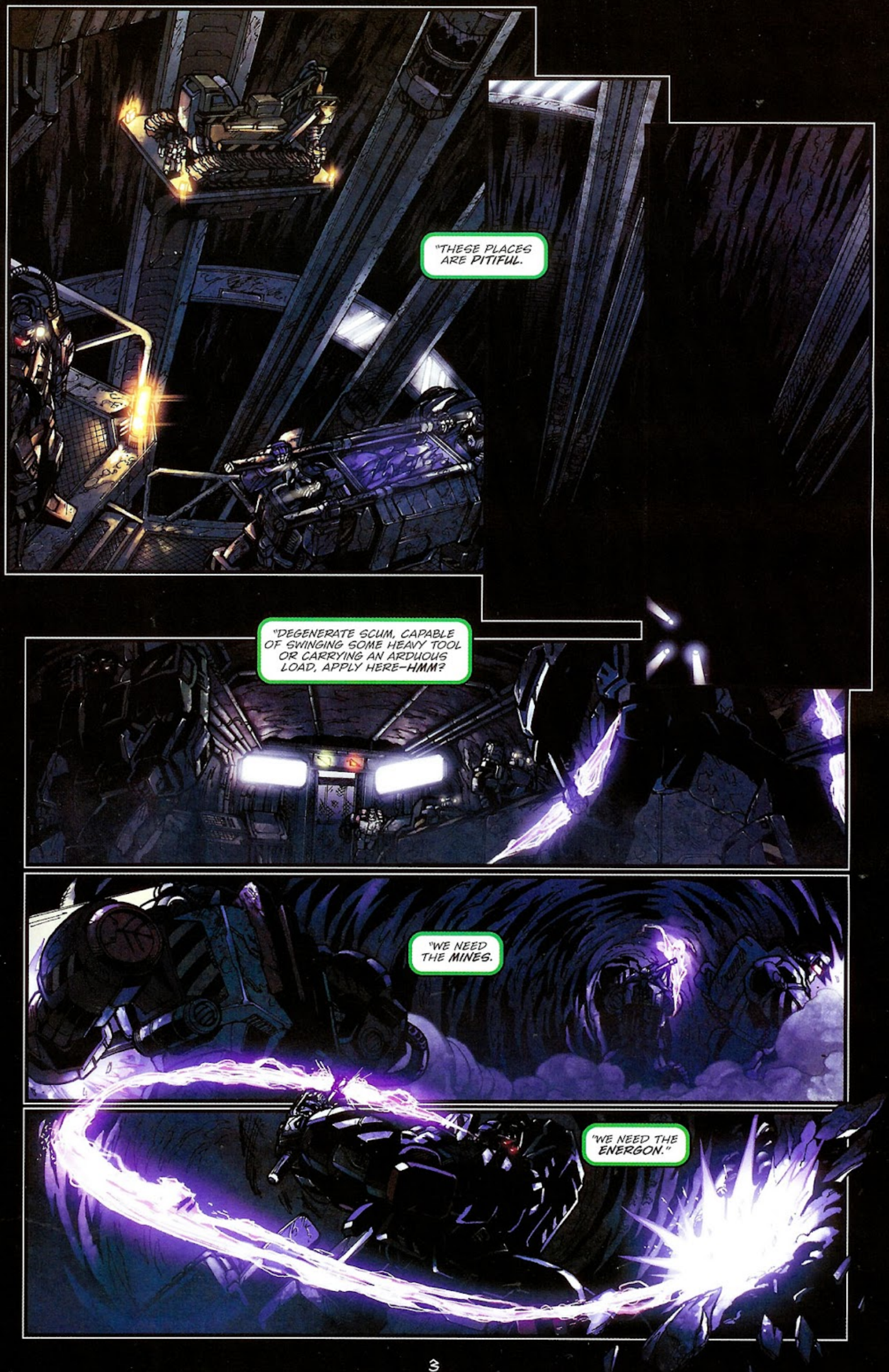
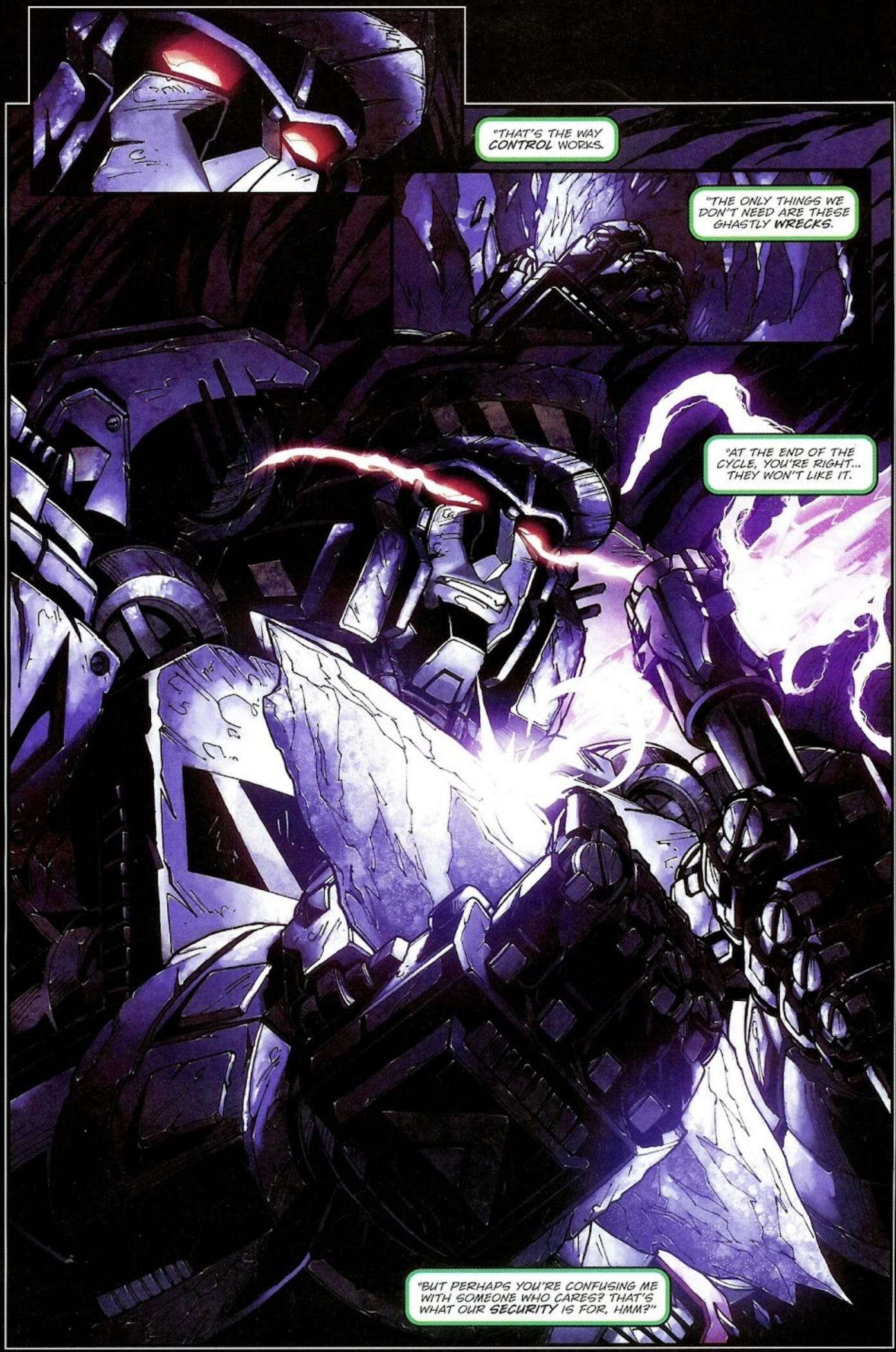
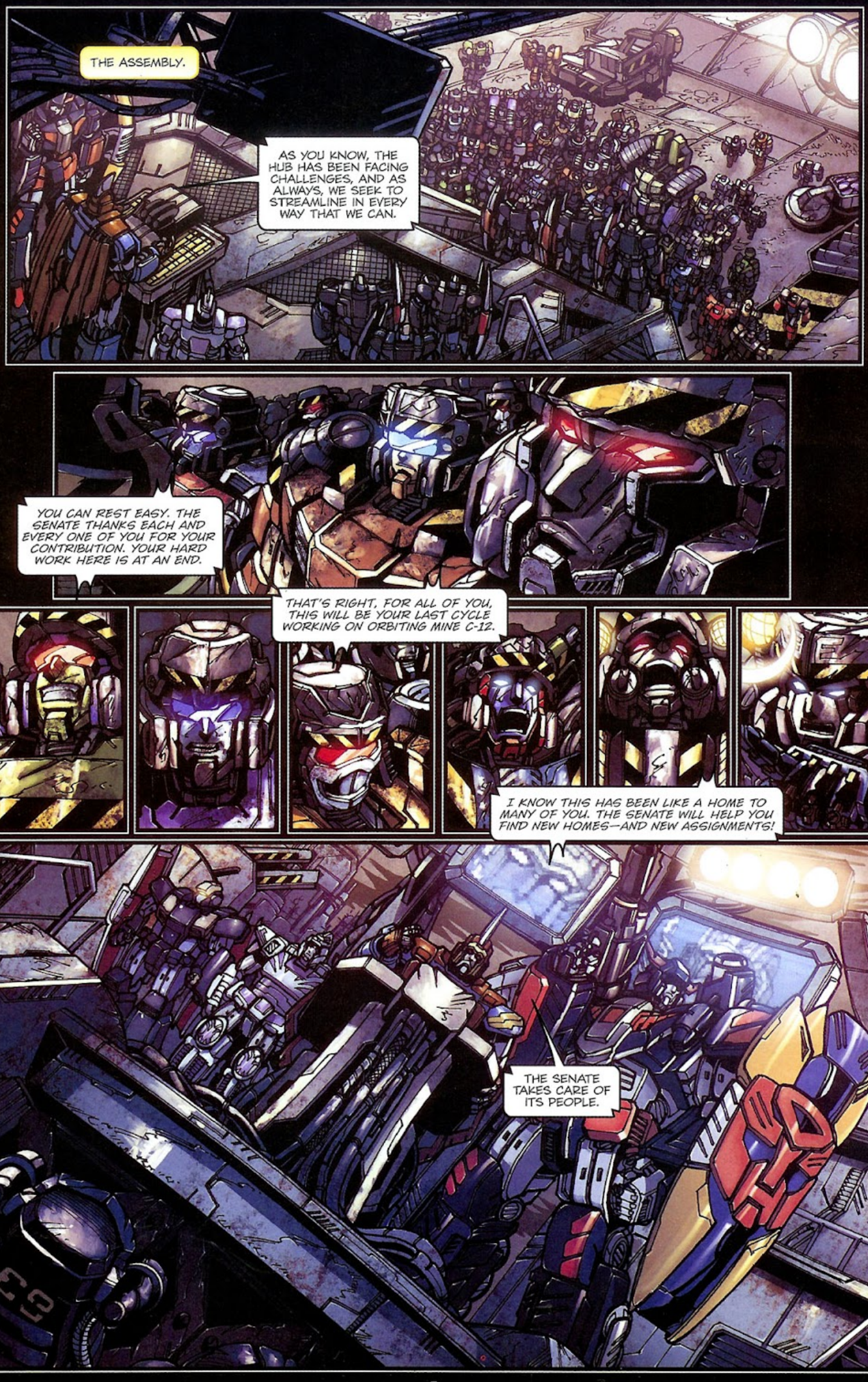
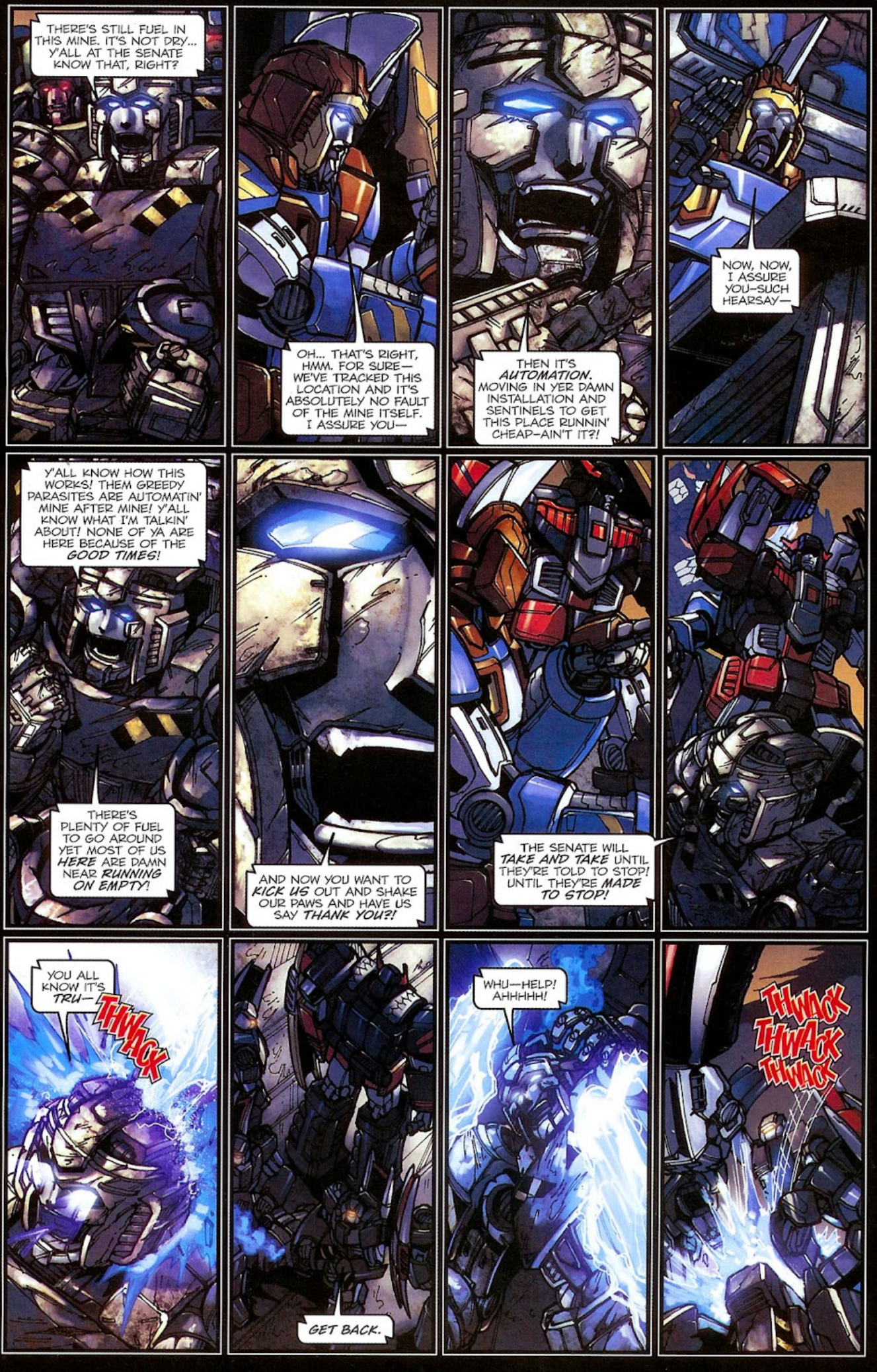
THE CYBERTRON SYSTEM.
LONG AGO. PEACETIME.
MINING OUTPOST C-12.
"I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAVE TO BE HERE. CAN'T WE JUST... PUSH A BUTTON AND BE DONE WITH IT?"
"THE LAW SAYS THIS SORT OF THING HAS TO BE DECLARED ON-SITE. FORMALITIES."
"I DON'T LIKE IT..."

THEY WON'T LIKE IT, SENATOR DECIMUS.
LIKING IT ISN'T THE POINT.
WE ALL HAVE OUR JOBS TO DO, HMM?
EACH A COG IN THE GREAT MACHINE, YOU MIGHT SAY.
WE'RE ON STATION.
VERY WELL. TELL THEM SENATOR DECIMUS IS HERE— AND TO INITIATE ASSEMBLY.

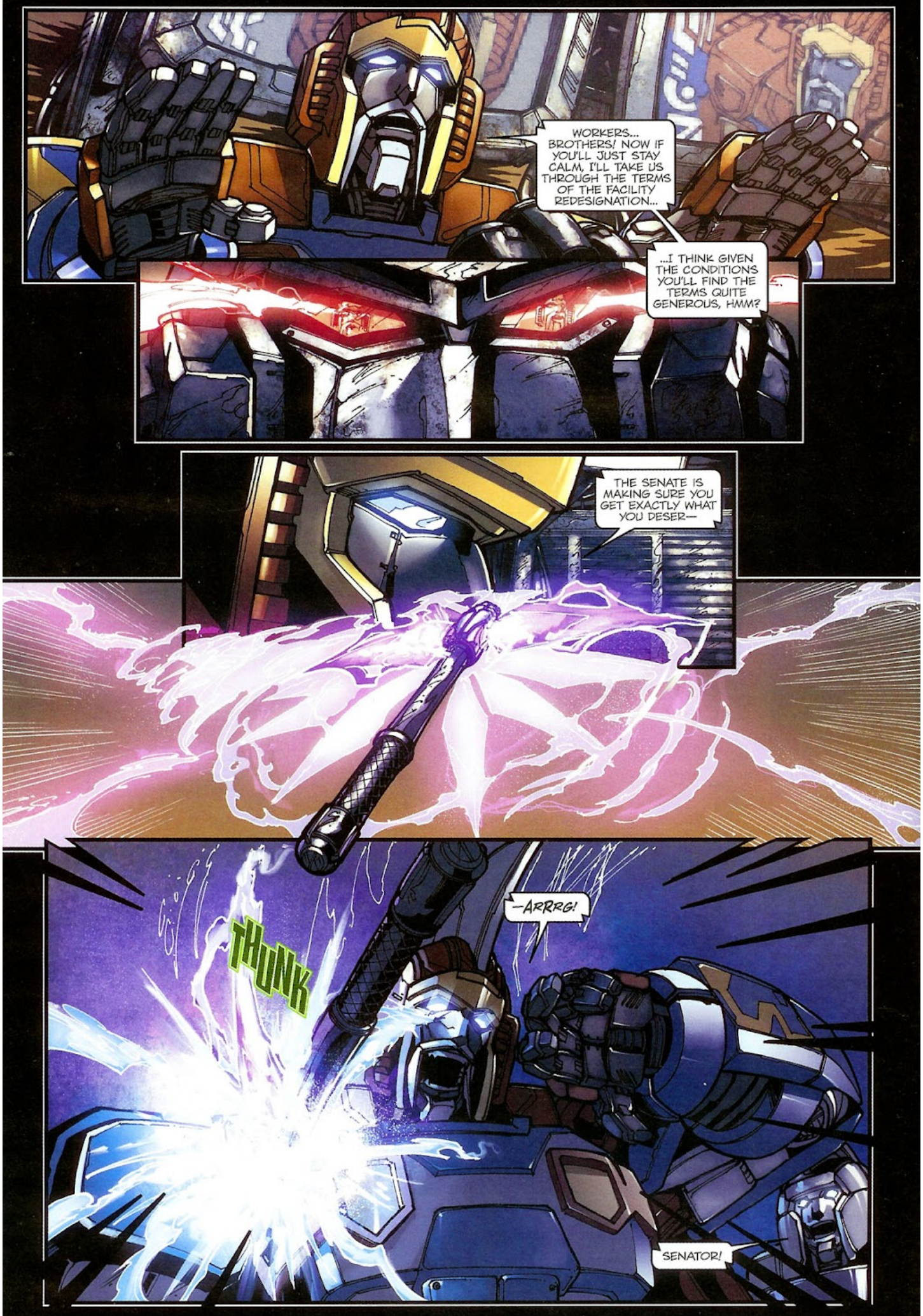

"THESE PLACES ARE PITIFUL.
"DEGENERATE SCUM, CAPABLE OF SWINGING SOME HEAVY TOOL OR CARRYING AN ARDUOUS LOAD, APPLY HERE—HMM?
"WE NEED THE MINES.
"WE NEED THE ENERGON."

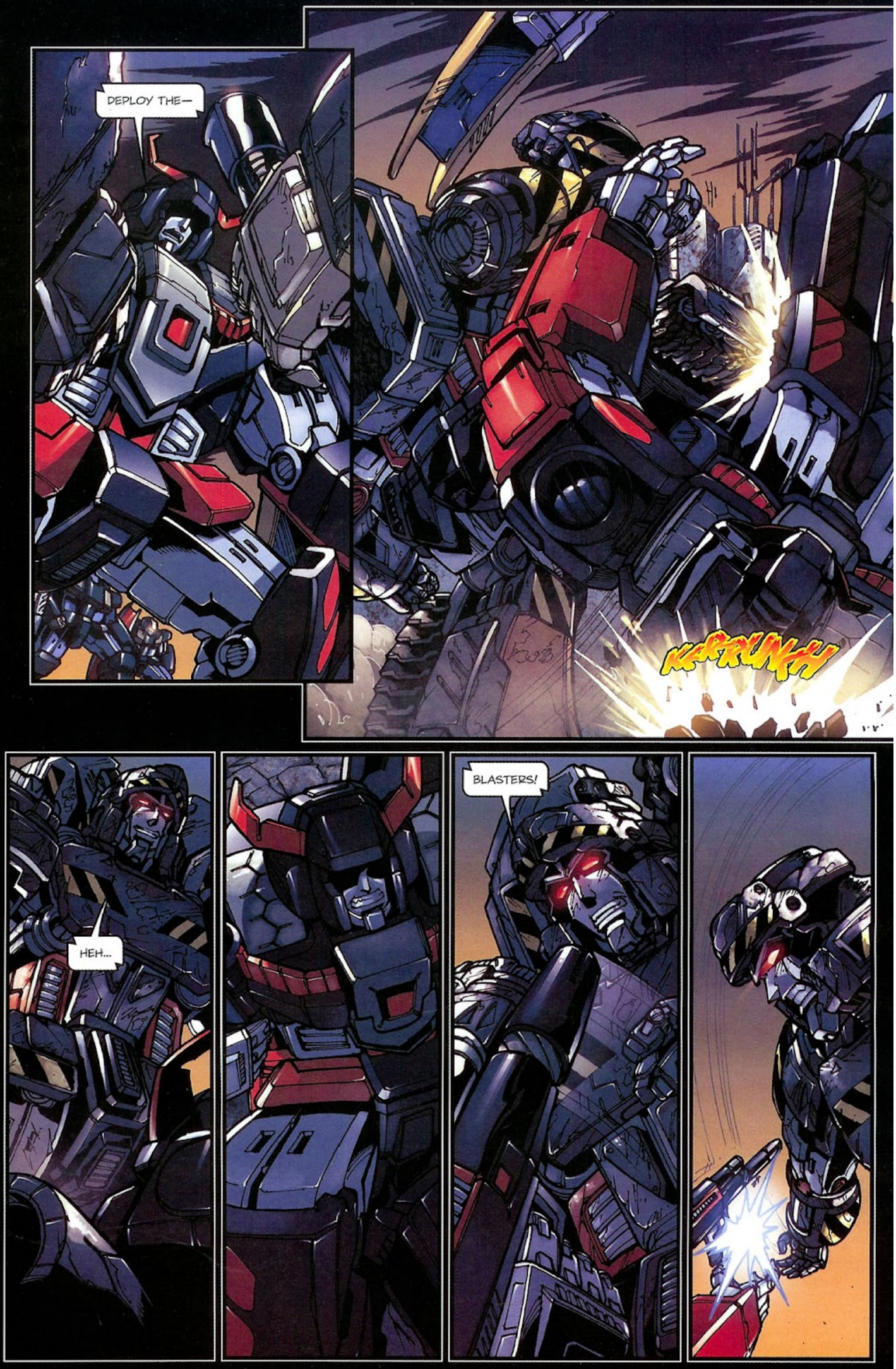

"THAT'S THE WAY CONTROL WORKS.
"THE ONLY THINGS WE DON'T NEED ARE THESE GHASTLY WRECKS.
"AT THE END OF THE CYCLE, YOU'RE RIGHT... THEY WON'T LIKE IT.
"BUT PERHAPS YOU'RE CONFUSING ME WITH SOMEONE WHO CARES? THAT'S WHAT OUR SECURITY IS FOR, HMM?"


THE ASSEMBLY.
AS YOU KNOW, THE HUB HAS BEEN FACING CHALLENGES, AND AS ALWAYS, WE SEEK TO STREAMLINE IN EVERY WAY THAT WE CAN.
YOU CAN REST EASY. THE SENATE THANKS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION. YOUR HARD WORK HERE IS AT AN END.
THAT'S RIGHT. FOR ALL OF YOU, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST CYCLE WORKING ON ORBITING MINE C-12.
I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN LIKE A HOME TO MANY OF YOU. THE SENATE WILL HELP YOU FIND NEW HOMES—AND NEW ASSIGNMENTS!
THE SENATE TAKES CARE OF ITS PEOPLE.


THERE'S STILL FUEL IN THIS MINE. IT'S NOT DRY... Y'ALL AT THE SENATE KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
OH... THAT'S RIGHT, HMM. FOR SURE— WE'VE TRACKED THIS LOCATION AND IT'S ABSOLUTELY NO FAULT OF THE MINE ITSELF. I ASSURE YOU—
THEN IT'S AUTOMATION. MOVING IN YER DAMN INSTALLATION AND SENTINELS TO GET THIS PLACE RUNNIN' CHEAP—AIN'T IT?!
NOW, NOW, I ASSURE YOU—SUCH HEARSAY—
Y'ALL KNOW HOW THIS WORKS! THEM GREEDY PARASITES ARE AUTOMATIN' MINE AFTER MINE! Y'ALL KNOW WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT! NONE OF YA ARE HERE BECAUSE OF THE GOOD TIMES!
THERE'S PLENTY OF FUEL TO GO AROUND YET MOST OF US HERE ARE DAMN NEAR RUNNING ON EMPTY!
AND NOW YOU WANT TO KICK US OUT AND SHAKE OUR PAWS AND HAVE US SAY THANK YOU?!
THE SENATE WILL TAKE AND TAKE UNTIL THEY'RE TOLD TO STOP! UNTIL THEY'RE MADE TO STOP!
YOU ALL KNOW IT'S TRU—
THWACK
GET BACK.
WHU—HELP! AHHHHH!
THWACK THWACK THWACK

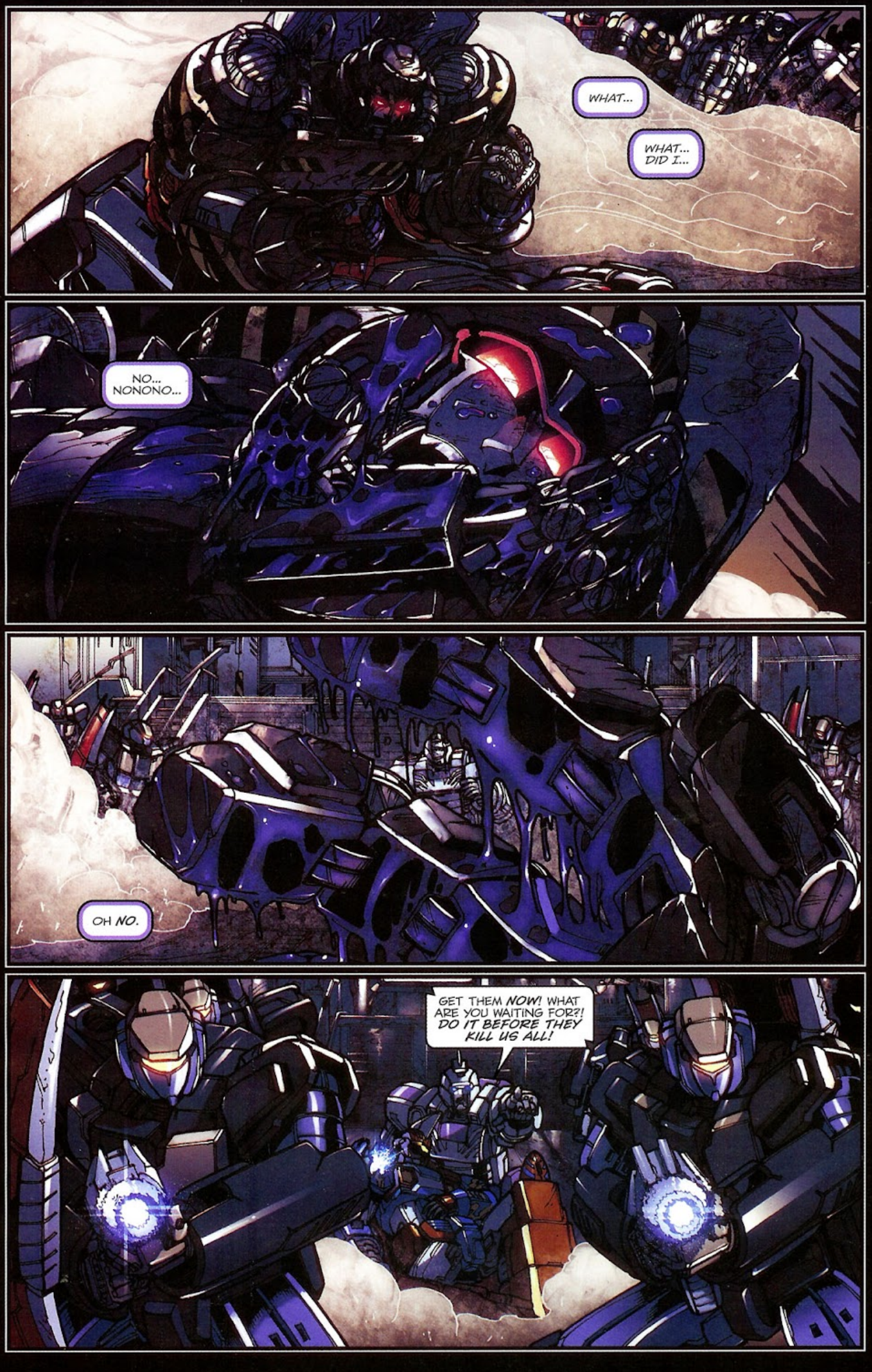
FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION. CAN'T YOU PEOPLE SEE THIS?
NOW GET BACK.
UGH... GUK...
GET BACK.

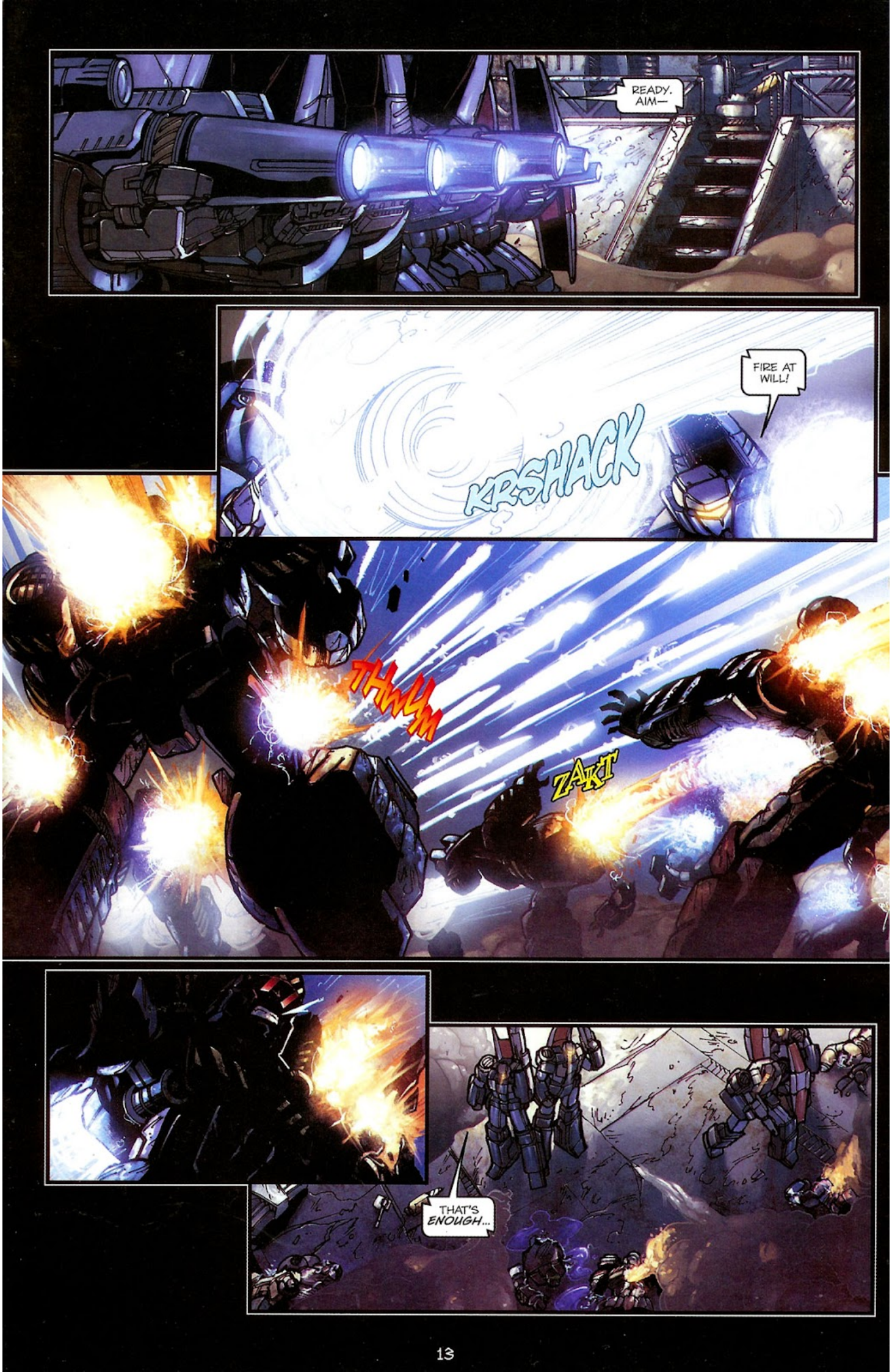

WORKERS... BROTHERS! NOW IF YOU'LL JUST STAY CALM, I'LL TAKE US THROUGH THE TERMS OF THE FACILITY REDESIGNATION...
...I THINK GIVEN THE CONDITIONS YOU'LL FIND THE TERMS QUITE GENEROUS, HMM?
THE SENATE IS MAKING SURE YOU GET EXACTLY WHAT YOU DESER—
THUNK
—ARRRG!
SENATOR!


DEPLOY THE—
KERRUNK!
HEH...
BLASTERS!

HRR...
NO...
HRRRRR!
...NO.

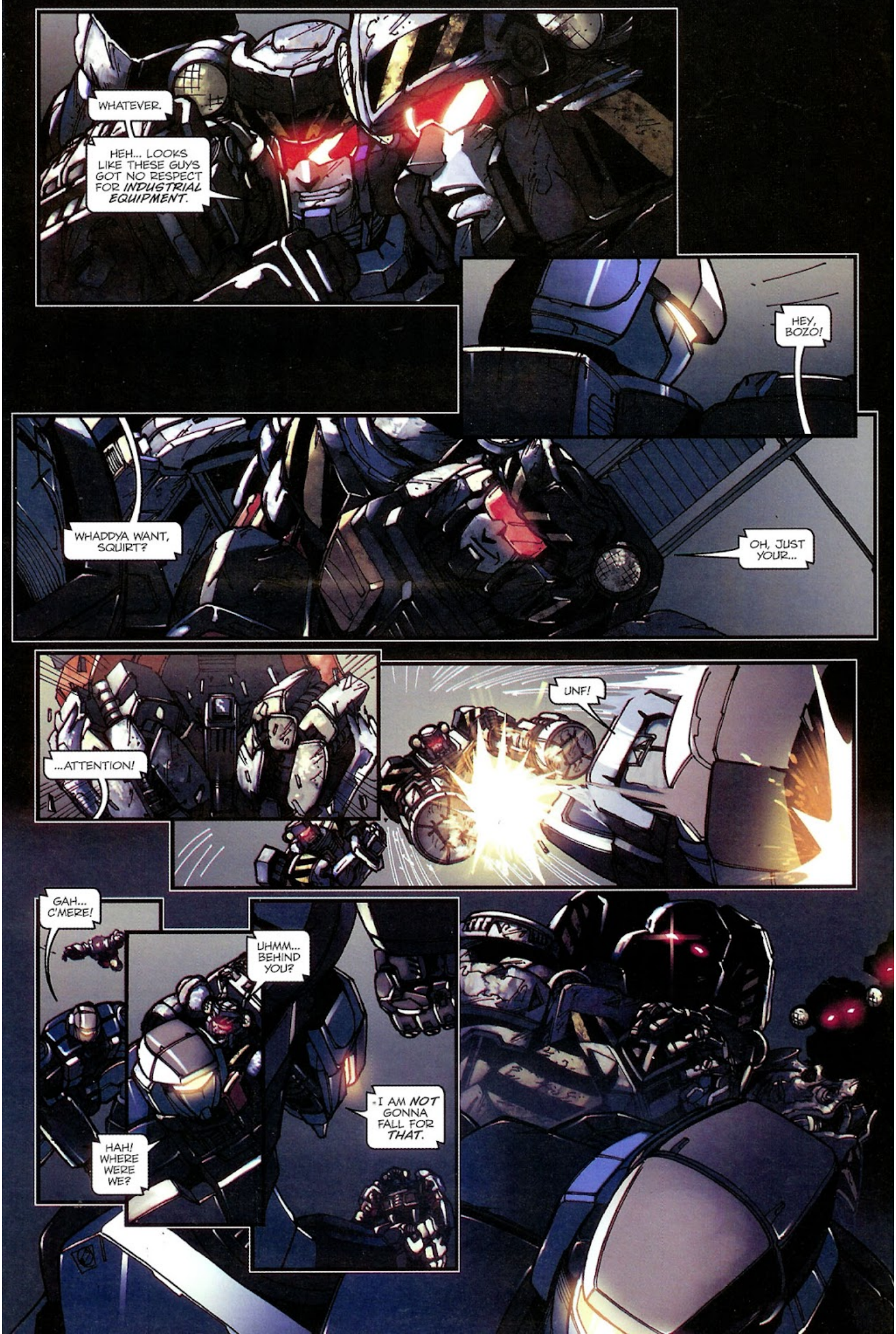
BRACE!
MURDERERS!
TAKE 'EM APART!
HANG ON, SENATOR.

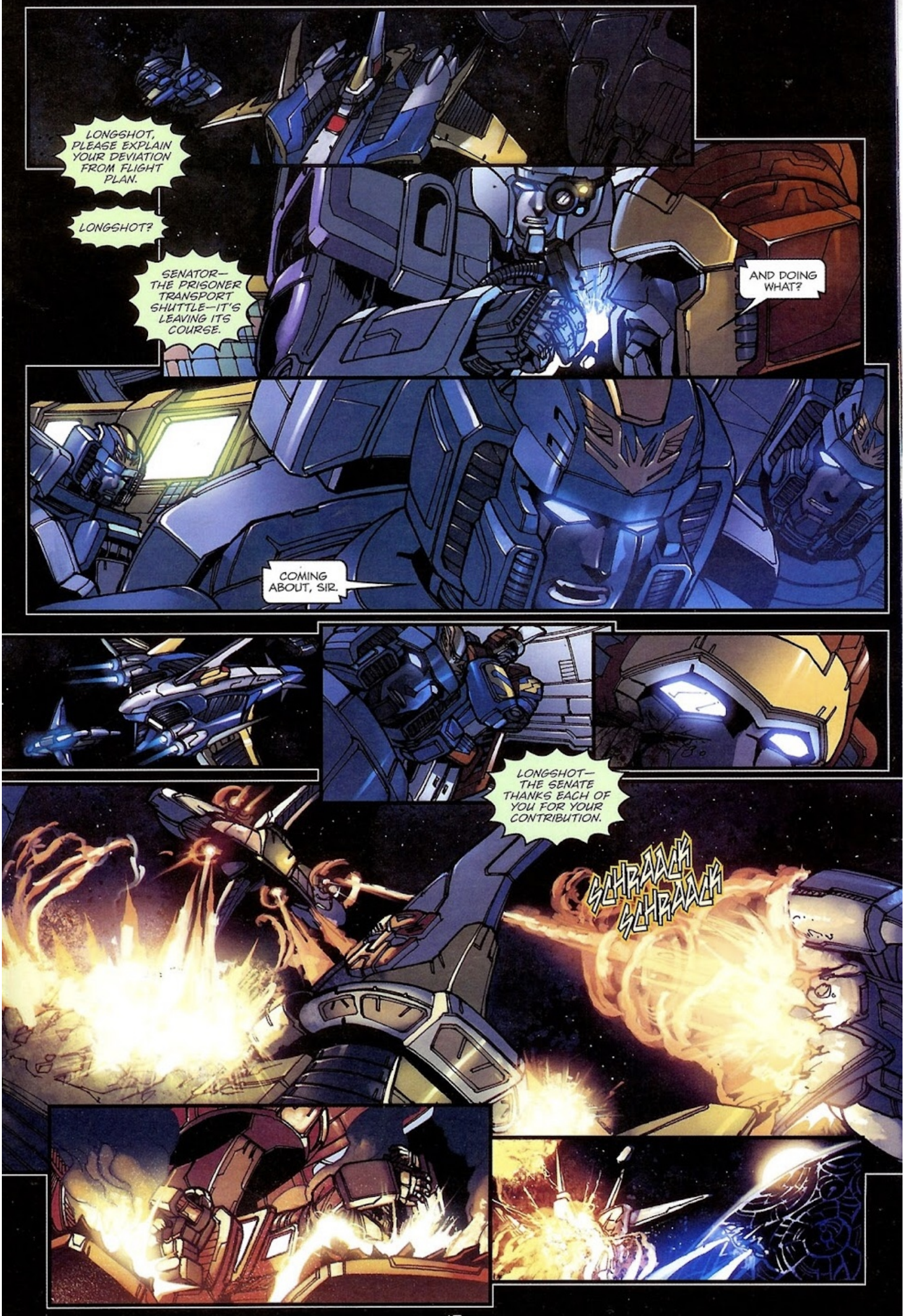

WHAT...
WHAT... DID I...
NO... NONONO...
OH NO.
GET THEM NOW! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! DO IT BEFORE THEY KILL US ALL!


READY. AIM—
FIRE AT WILL!
KRSHACK
THWUM
ZAKT
THAT'S ENOUGH...

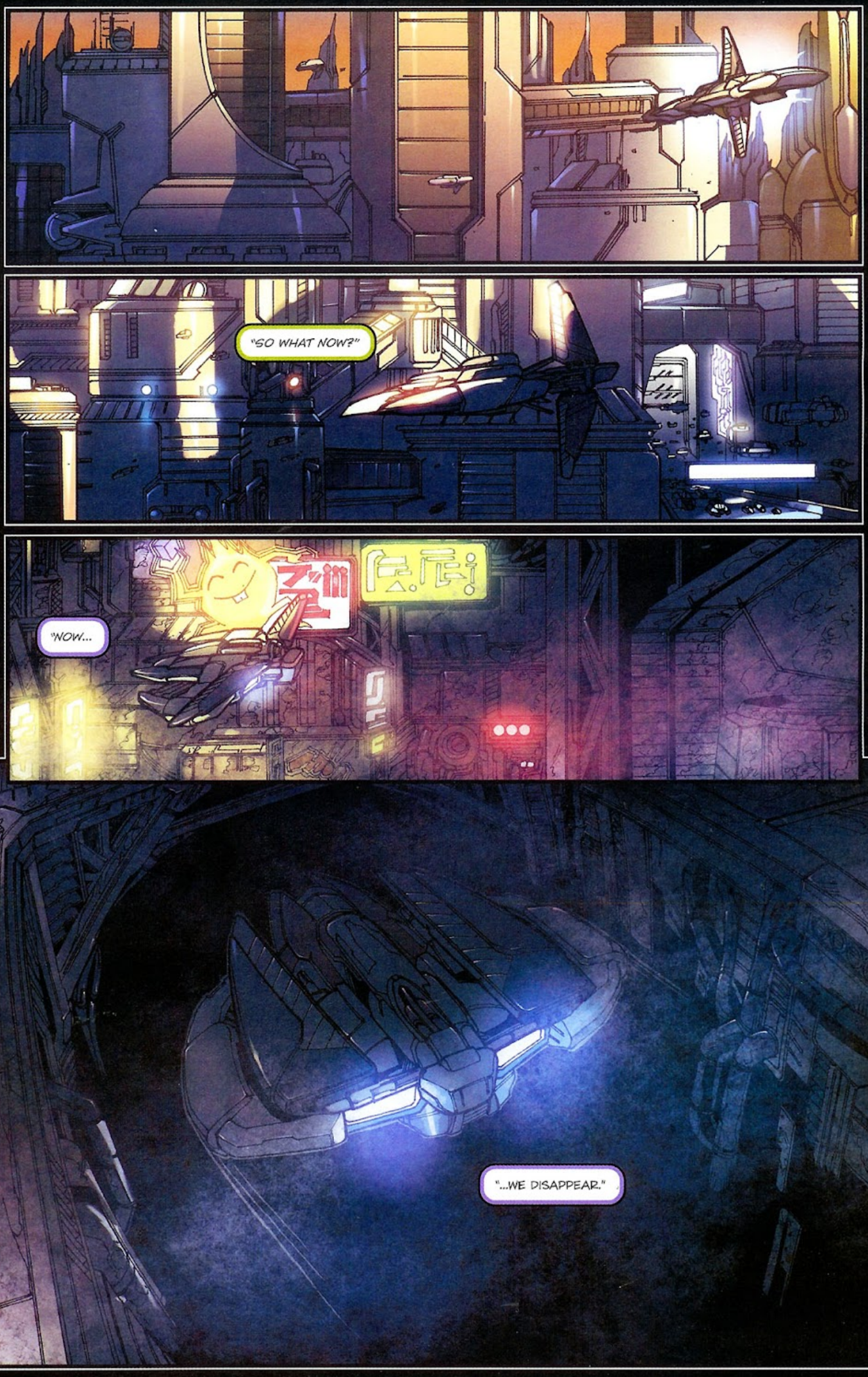
"...CONSIDER THEM PACIFIED!"
"WHAT'S NEXT?"
"PRISON IF WE'RE LUCKY—A BREAKDOWN IF WE'RE NOT. ALL BECAUSE OF HIM."
"THAT ONE—IS HE DEAD?"

"DUNNO."
REDATRIATION SHUTTLE: "LONGSHOT."
CARGO: C-12 MINE REVOLT SURVIVORS.
DESTINATION: PENAL FACILITY H-3. "THE RIG."
ONLINE AGIAN, HUH?
LOOK, BIG GUY—WE NEED YOUR HELP...
...WE BOTH SAW WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF.
THAT WAS... UNINTENTIONAL. I SHOULDN'T BE HERE.


WHATEVER.
HEH... LOOKS LIKE THESE GUYS GOT NO RESPECT FOR *INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT*.
HEY, BOZO!
WHADDYA WANT, SQUIRT?
OH, JUST YOUR...
...ATTENTION!
UNF!
GAH... C'MERE!
UHMM... BEHIND YOU?
I AM *NOT* GONNA FALL FOR *THAT*.
HAH! WHERE WERE WE?


LONGSHOT, PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR DEVIATION FROM FLIGHT PLAN.
LONGSHOT?
SENATOR— THE PRISONER TRANSPORT SHUTTLE—IT'S LEAVING ITS COURSE.
AND DOING WHAT?
COMING ABOUT, SIR.
LONGSHOT— THE SENATE THANKS EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION.
SCHRAACK SCHRAACK

KAON. THE WORST PLACE ON CYBERTRON.
"WHY DIDN'T YOU BURN THEM?"
"THINK ABOUT IT—RIGHT NOW THEIR FIRST PRIORITY WILL BE TO SEARCH FOR AND RESCUE THEIR PRECIOUS, WOUNDED SENATOR...
"...IF IT'S DESTROYED, THEIR FIRST PRIORITY WOULD BE HUNTING US."


"SO WHAT NOW?"
"NOW...
"...WE DISAPPEAR."

SECURITY SERVICES HQ, KAON.
SENTINAL PRIME, SIR, WE'VE JUST GOTTEN A REPORT OF A BETA-GRADE INCIDENT IN OUR AIRSPACE. WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH A SHUTTLE AND ANOTHER IS DOWN.

DON'T WASTE MY TIME, PROWL—YOU KNOW PROTOCOL BETTER THAN ANYONE—SO FOLLOW IT.
KA-TOW KA-TOW KA-TOW
NORMALLY I WOULDN'T... INTRUDE, SIR. BUT... THIS INVOLVES A LIFE-THREATENING ATTACK ON A SENATOR. IT'S POLICY—SIR?
SIR...? THE SENATE...
KA-TOW KA-TOW KA-TOW
LIFE-THREATENING... FATAL?
ALL WE HAVE AT THIS TIME IS A DISTRESS BEACON, LOCATION, VELOCITY. I'VE SCRAMBLED RESPONSE.
JUST PRIOR, THERE WERE REPORTS OF A DISTURBANCE AT AN OFF-PLANET FACILITY...

FINE—THEN YOU TAKE IT. I DON'T HAVE THE STRUTS TO DEAL WITH ANOTHER WHINING SENATOR—IF THEY GAVE ME WHAT I NEED RATHER THAN TOLD ME HOW TO—
I'LL HAVE A REPORT ASAP, SIR. AND I'LL MAKE SURE THE SENATE IS KEPT UP TO DATE.
AND OUT OF THE WAY.
WHATEVER IT IS...
...I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING.
COMPARED TO *DOWN HERE.*
TO BE CONTINUED.

NEXT MONTH
EVIL RAGES ON!

THE TRANSFORMERS™
MEGATRON #2
ORIGIN

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The Forge

CYBERTRON. While corrupt Senators hoard profits from state energy supplies, the growing numbers of unemployed cannot even find the means by which to fuel themselves.

When the Senate elects to automate yet another off-planet mine and make all employees redundant, the betrayed miners rebel. The security forces come down hard. The result—a massacre. Key workers are held responsible. En route to prison, they make a desperate bid for freedom by commandeering their shuttlecraft and fleeing to one of the most troubled population centers in all the city-states—**KAON**—a place where life has no value and death sometimes has a price…

THE TRANSFORMERS: MEGATRON ORIGIN

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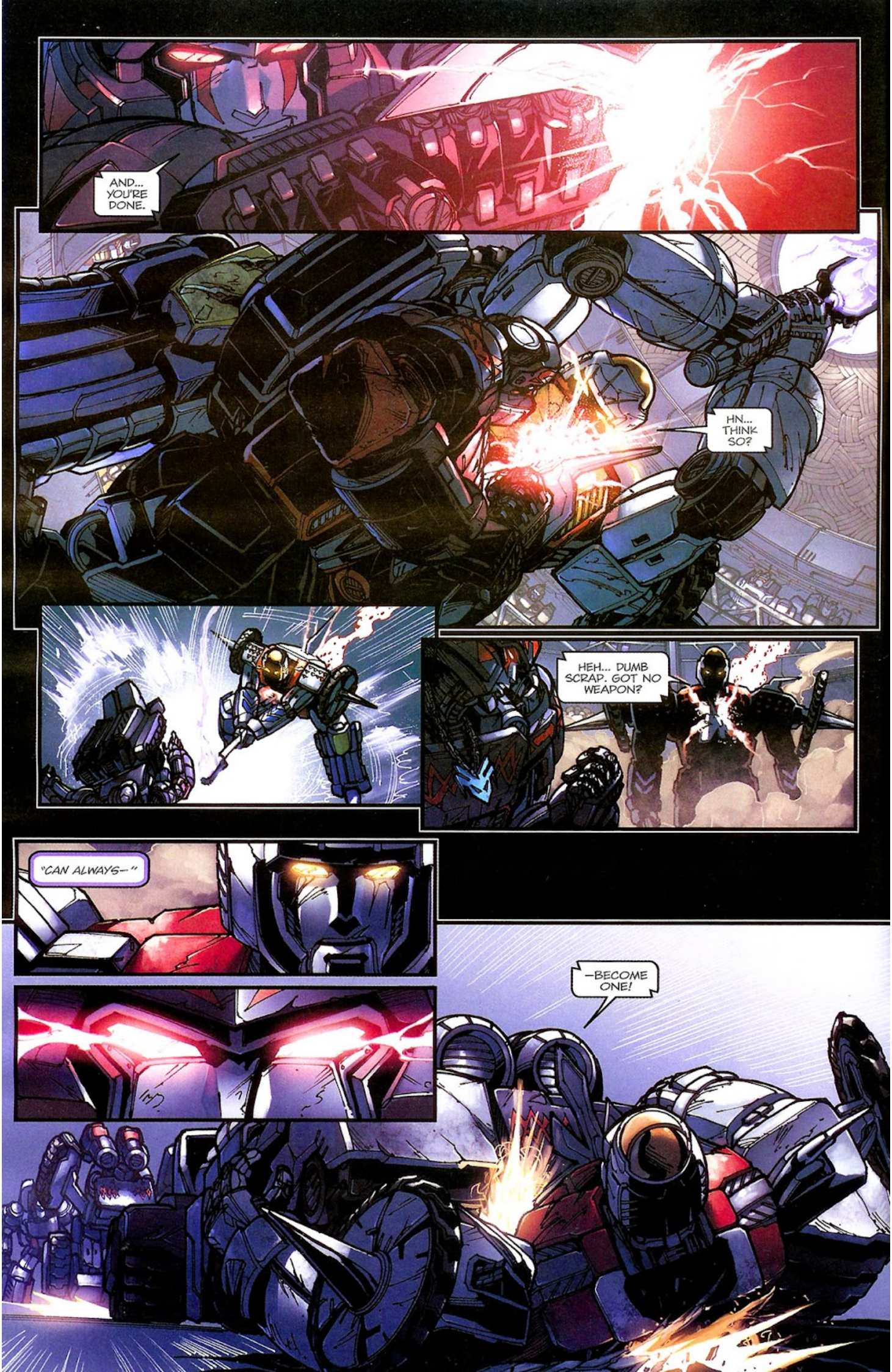
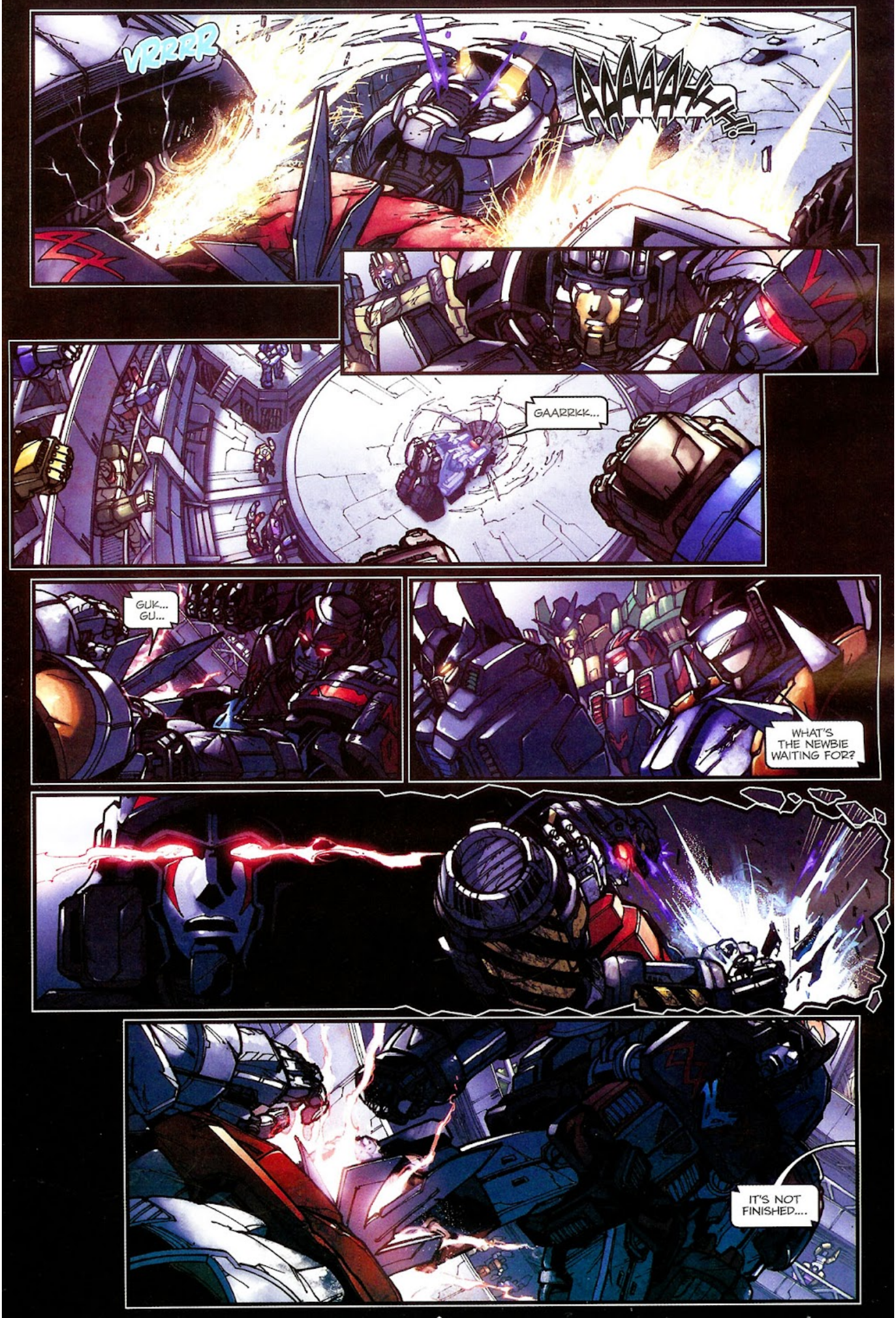
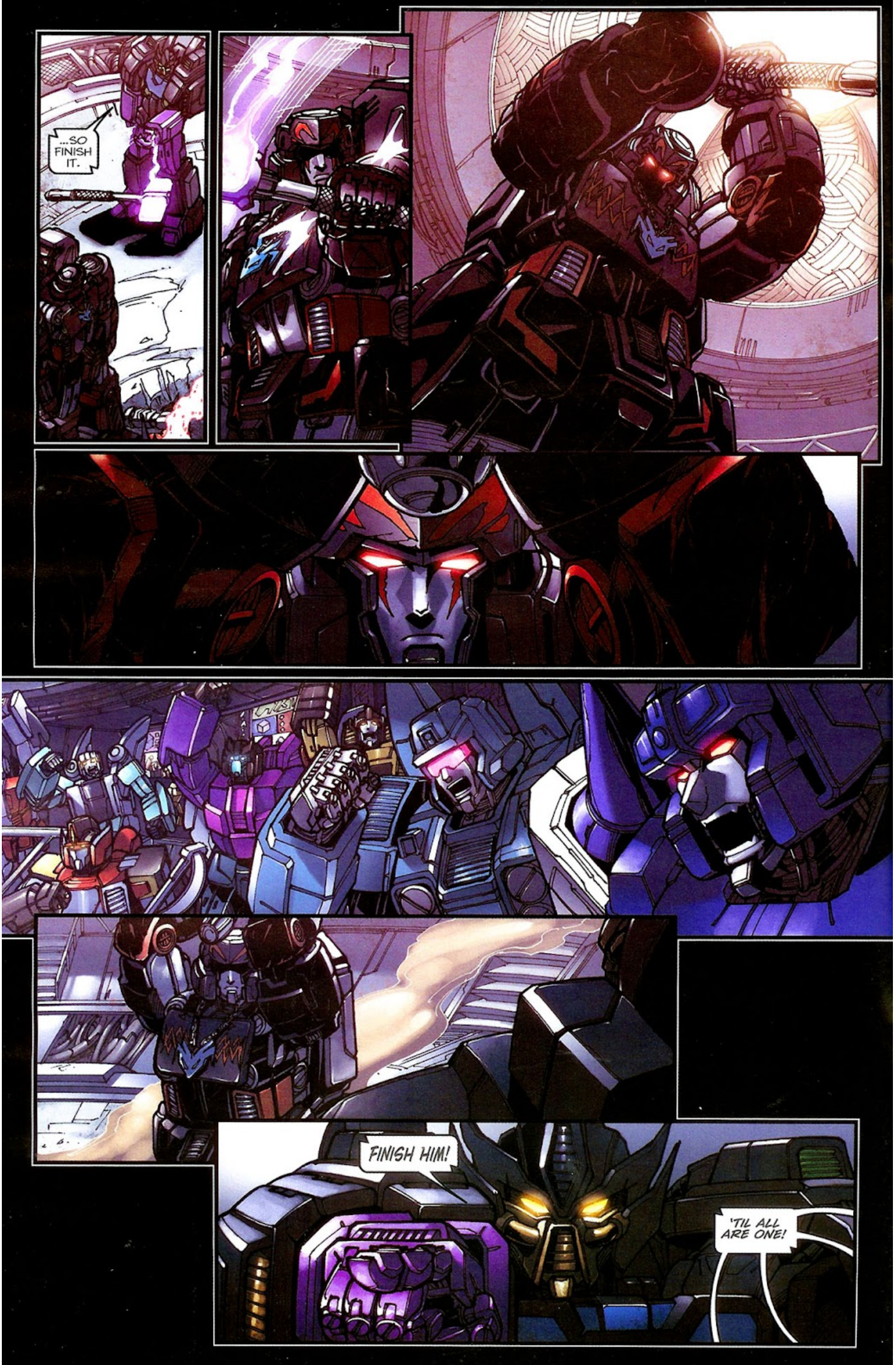
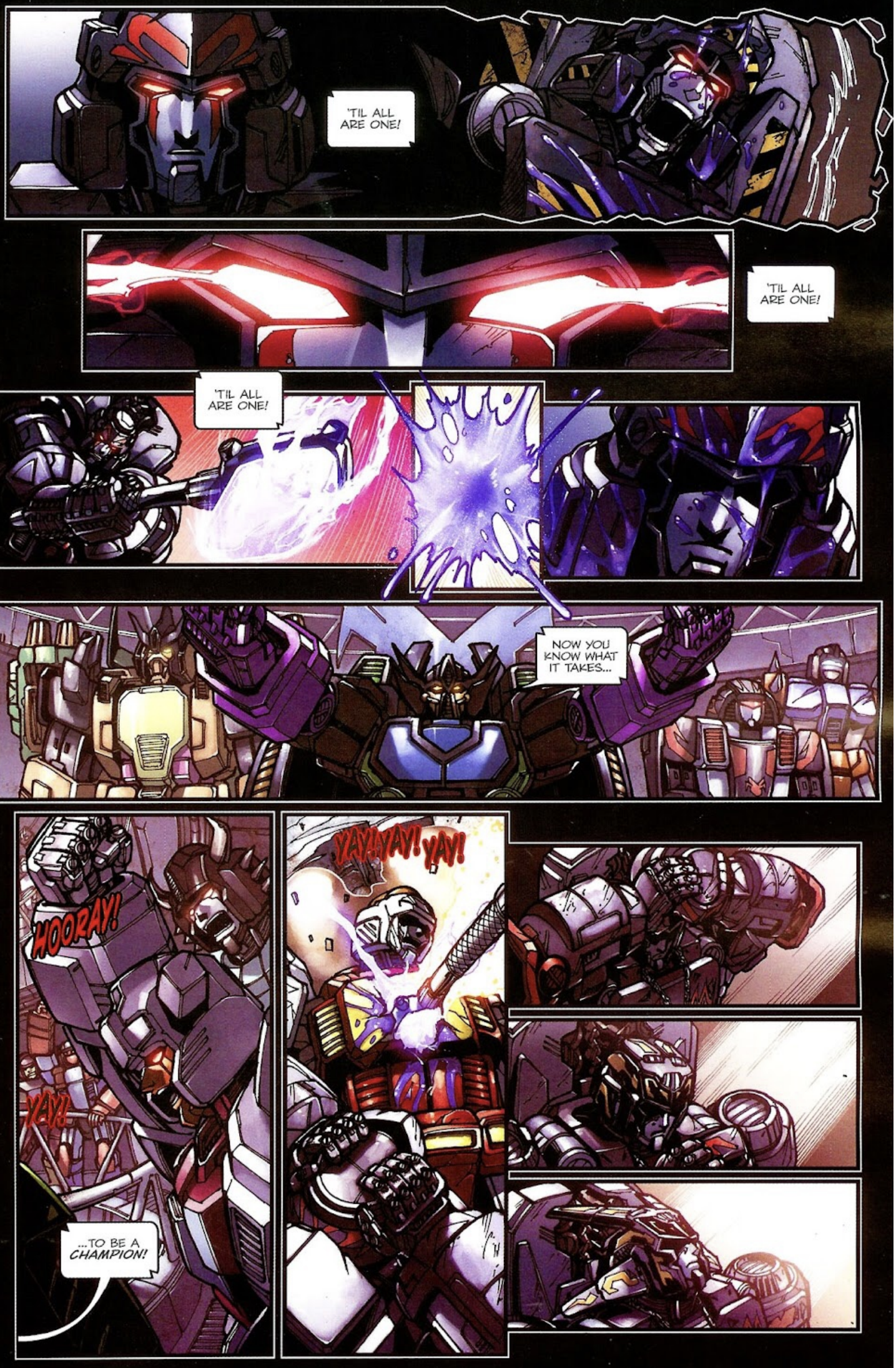
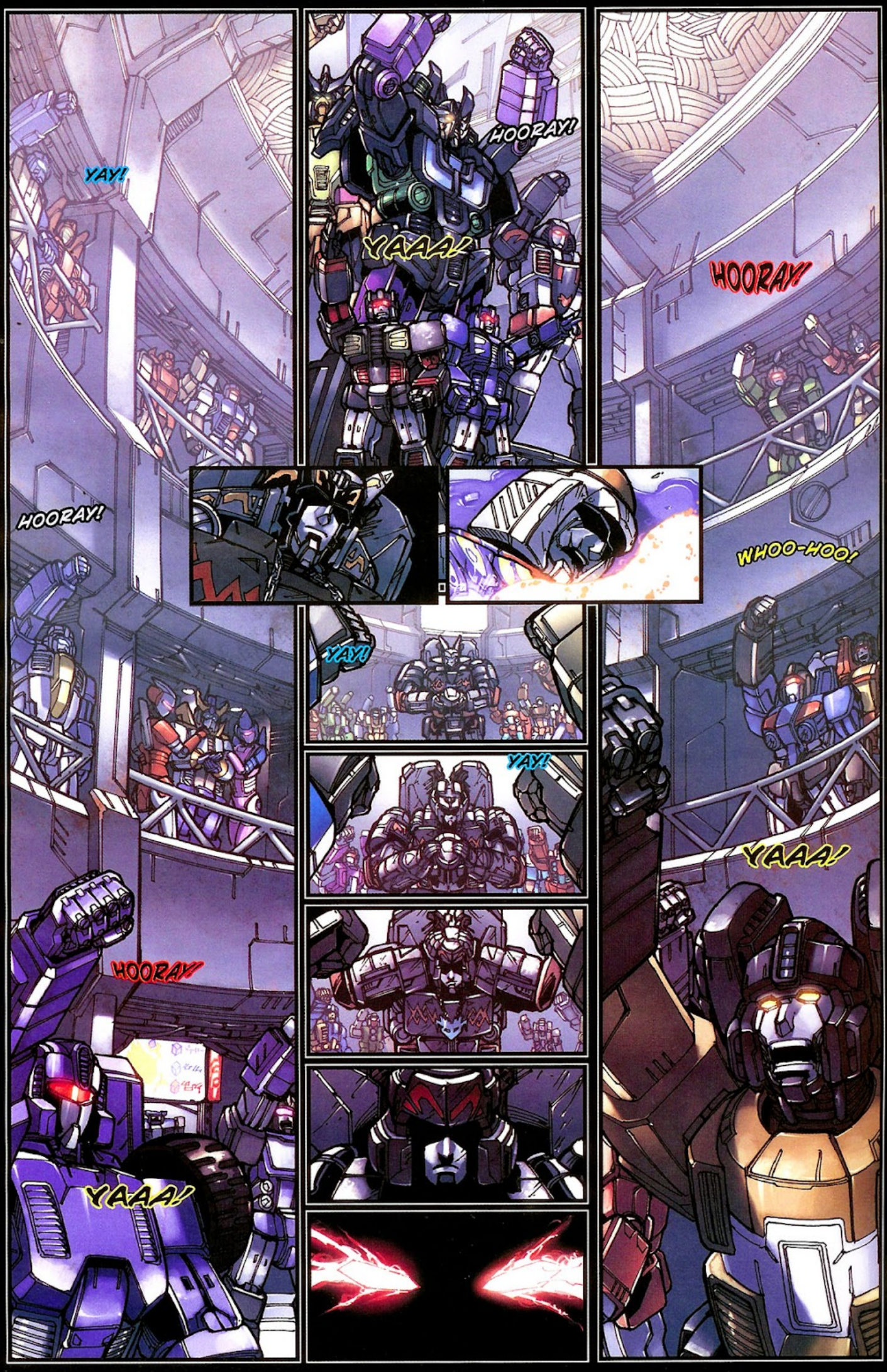
HU-UUAAAAGGGHH!

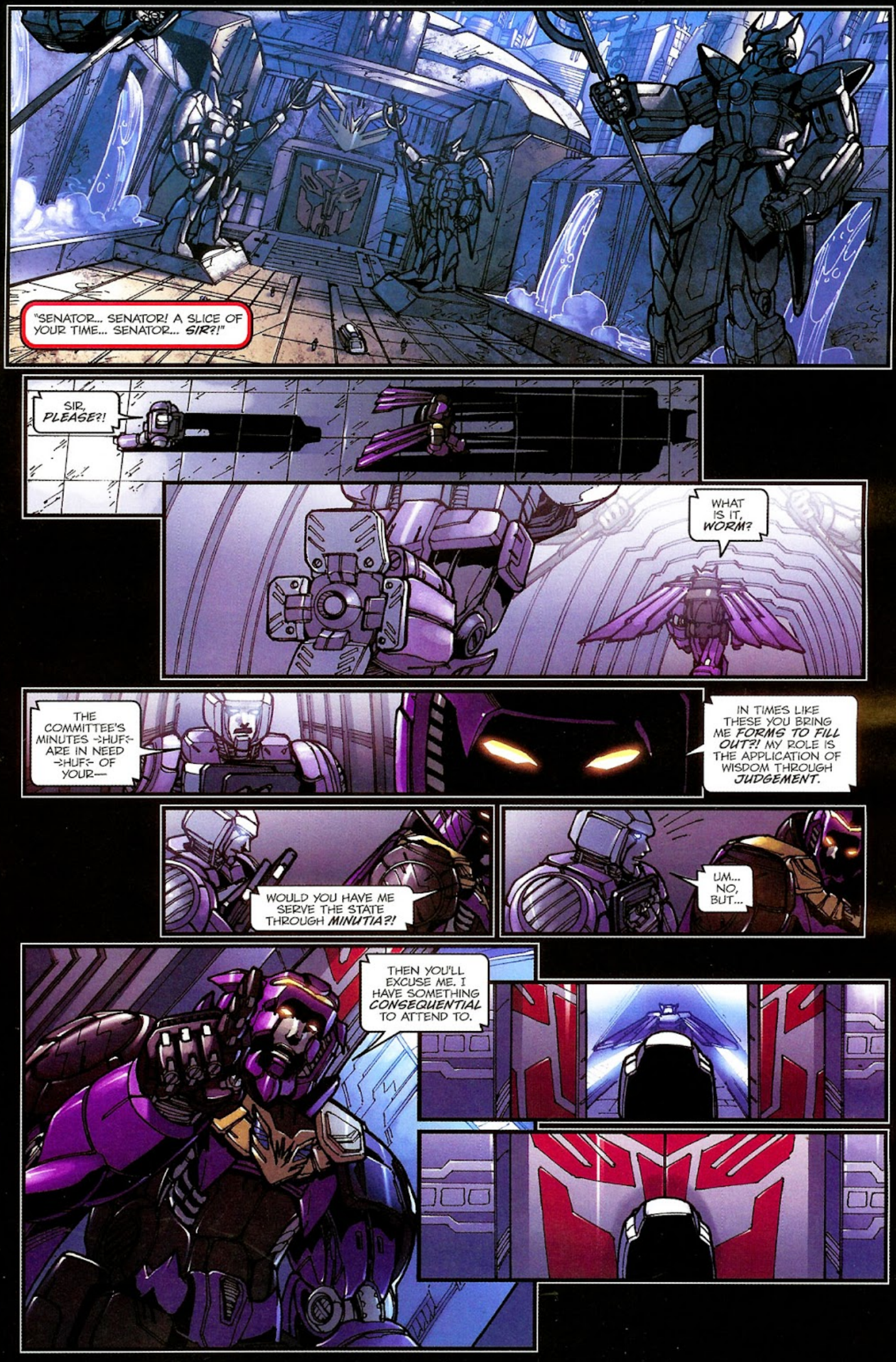

AND... YOU'RE DONE.
HN... THINK SO?
HEH... DUMB SCRAP. GOT NO WEAPON?
"CAN ALWAYS—"
—BECOME ONE!

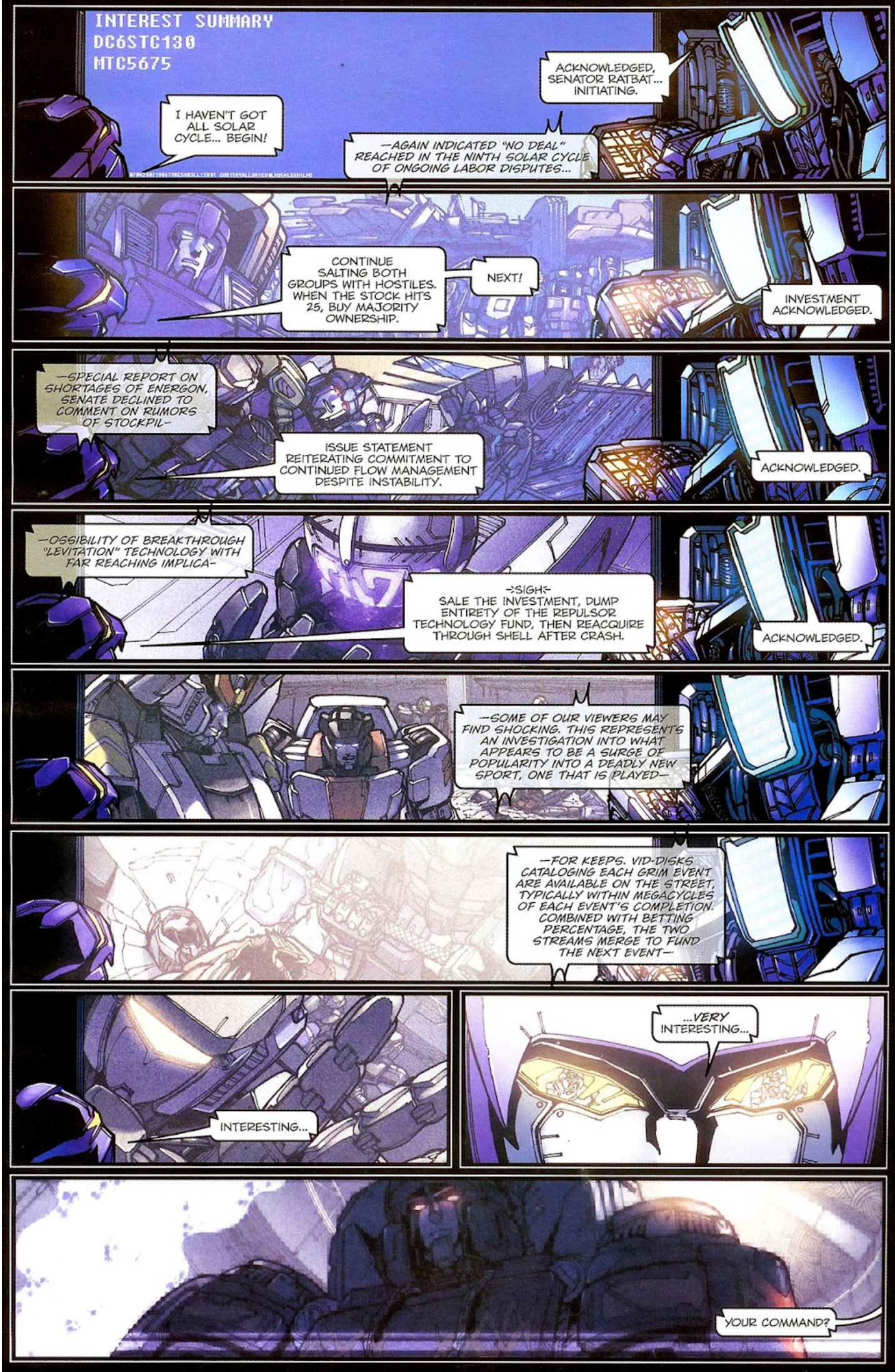

VRRRR
GAARRKK...
GUK... GU...
WHAT'S THE NEWBIE WAITING FOR?
IT'S NOT FINISHED....


...SO FINISH IT.
FINISH HIM!
'TIL ALL ARE ONE!


'TIL ALL ARE ONE!
'TIL ALL ARE ONE!
'TIL ALL ARE ONE!
NOW YOU KNOW WHAT IT TAKES...
HOORAY!
YAY!
...TO BE A CHAMPION!
YAY! YAY! YAY!


YAY!
HOORAY!
YAAA!
HOORAY!
HOORAY!
WHOO-HOO!
YAY!
YAY!
HOORAY!
YAAA!
YAAA!


"SENATOR... SENATOR! A SLICE OF YOUR TIME... SENATOR... SIR?!"
SIR, PLEASE?!
WHAT IS IT, WORM?
THE COMMITTEE'S MINUTES -:HUF:- ARE IN NEED -:HUF:- OF YOUR—
IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU BRING ME FORMS TO FILL OUT?! MY ROLE IS THE APPLICATION OF WISDOM THROUGH JUDGEMENT.
WOULD YOU HAVE ME SERVE THE STATE THROUGH MINUTIA?!
UM... NO, BUT...
THEN YOU'LL EXCUSE ME. I HAVE SOMETHING CONSEQUENTIAL TO ATTEND TO.

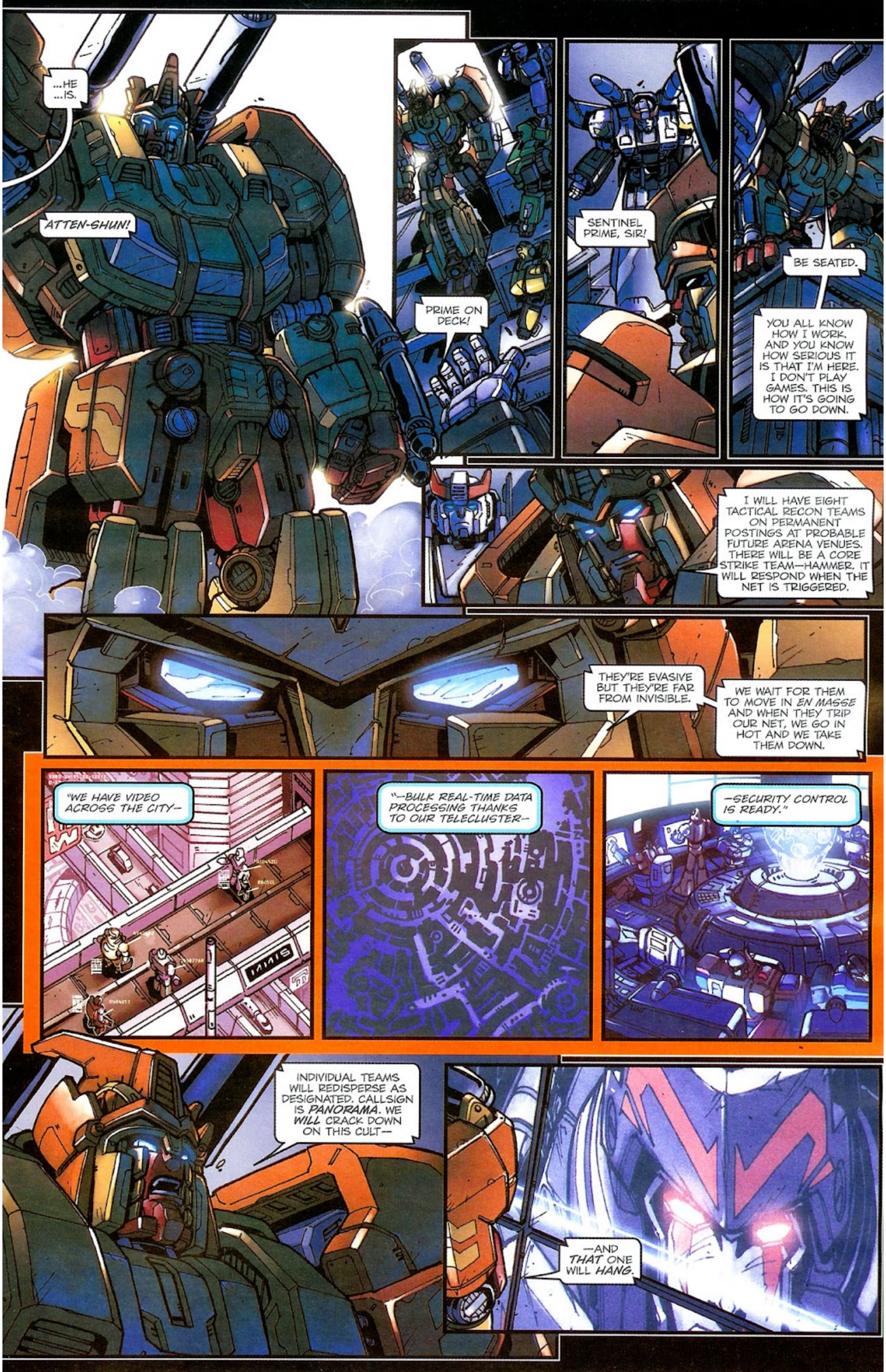

INTEREST SUMMARY
DC6STC130
MTC5675
I HAVEN'T GOT ALL SOLAR CYCLE... BEGIN!
—AGAIN INDICATED "NO DEAL" REACHED IN THE NINTH SOLAR CYCLE OF ONGOING LABOR DISPUTES...
ACKNOWLEDGED, SENATOR RATBAT... INITIATING.
CONTINUE SALTING BOTH GROUPS WITH HOSTILES. WHEN THE STOCK HITS 25, BUY MAJORITY OWNERSHIP.
NEXT!
INVESTMENT ACKNOWLEDGED.
—SPECIAL REPORT ON SHORTAGES OF ENERGON, SENATE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON RUMORS OF STOCKPIL—
ISSUE STATEMENT REITERATING COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED FLOW MANAGEMENT DESPITE INSTABILITY.
ACKNOWLEDGED.
—OSSIBILITY OF BREAKTHROUGH "LEVITATION" TECHNOLOGY WITH FAR REACHING IMPLICA—
-SIGH-
SALE THE INVESTMENT, DUMP ENTIRETY OF THE REPULSOR TECHNOLOGY FUND, THEN REACQUIRE THROUGH SHELL AFTER CRASH.
ACKNOWLEDGED.
—SOME OF OUR VIEWERS MAY FIND SHOCKING. THIS REPRESENTS AN INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SURGE OF POPULARITY INTO A DEADLY NEW SPORT, ONE THAT IS PLAYED—
—FOR KEEPS. VID-DISKS CATALOGING EACH GRIM EVENT ARE AVAILABLE ON THE STREET, TYPICALLY WITHIN MEGACYCLES OF EACH EVENT'S COMPLETION. COMBINED WITH BETTING PERCENTAGE, THE TWO STREAMS MERGE TO FUND THE NEXT EVENT—
INTERESTING...
...VERY INTERESTING...
YOUR COMMAND?

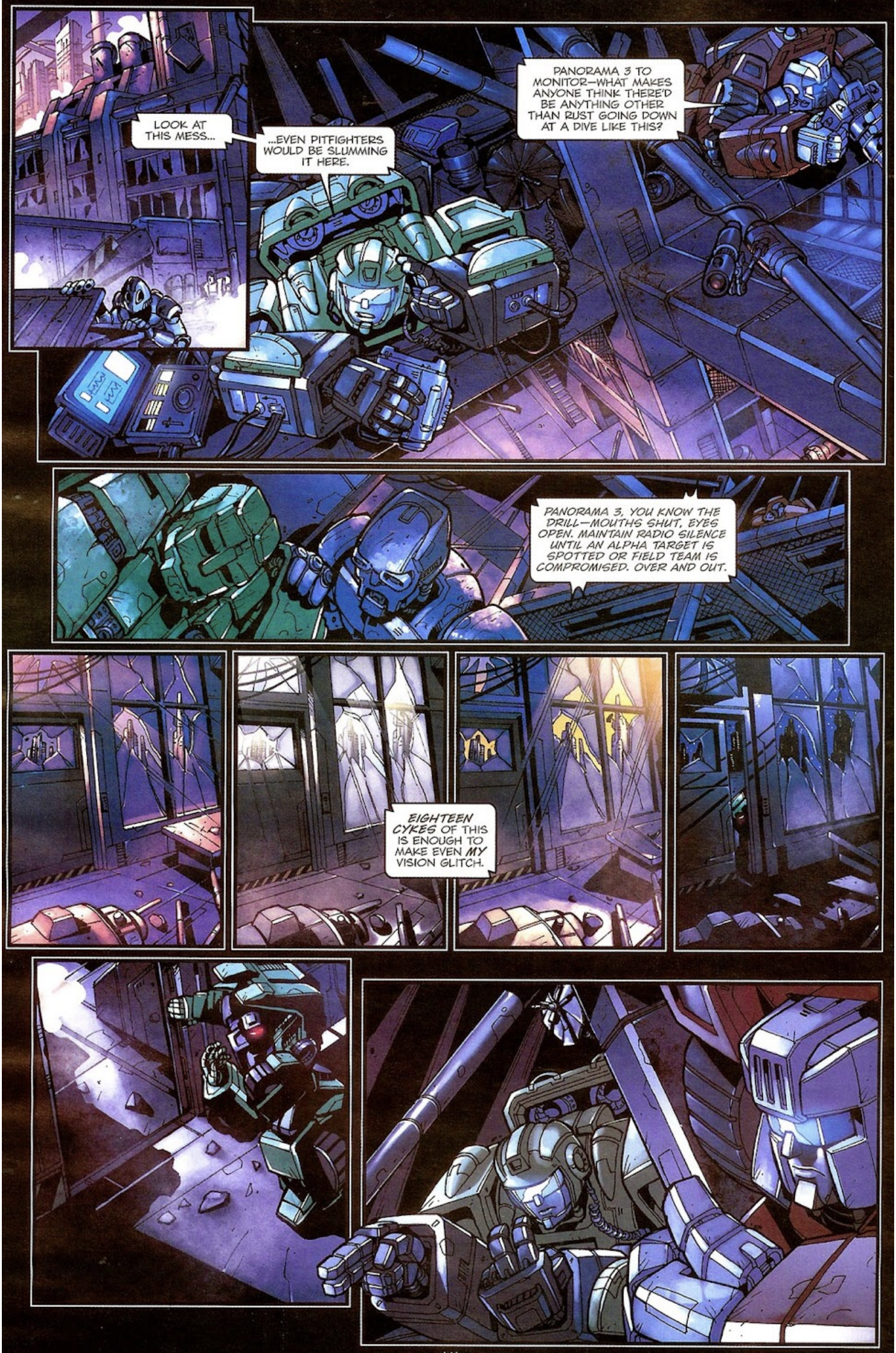
BATTLE 6.
BATTLE 18.
BATTLE 54.

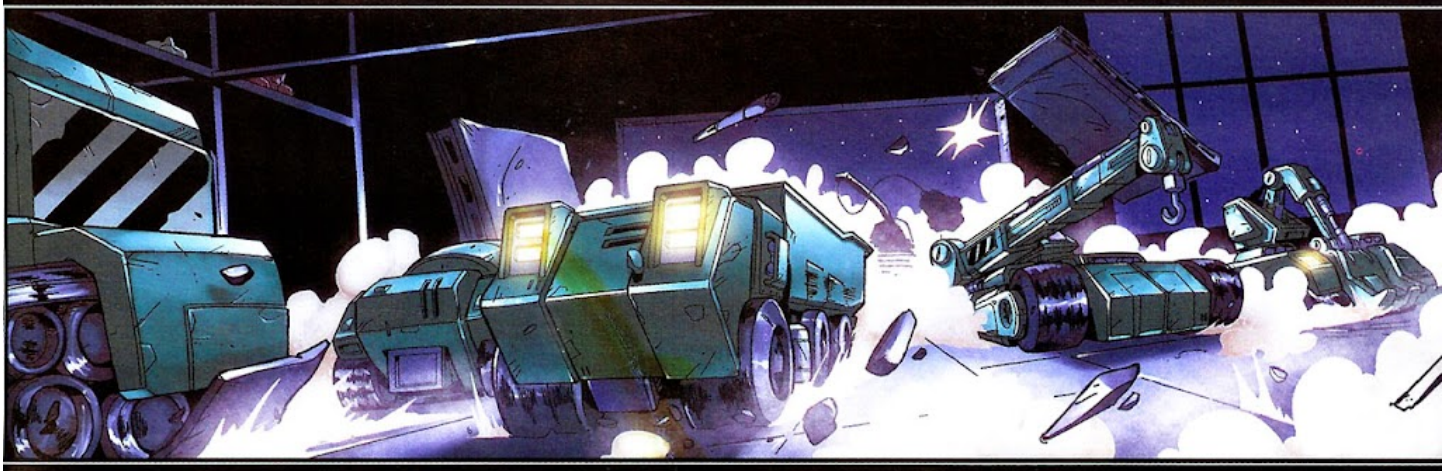
CIRCLE FORMATION!
I SAID CIRCLE FORMATION! BETABEAR, GET OVER—
—HERE... DAMMIT!
DAMMIT, BETABEAR'S TOAST.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!
SURROUNDED... DON'T KNOW... I JUST DON'T—
WHA—
GO AHEAD, CLENCH—
UNH-GRRRHH!
—TAKE ONE FOR THE TEAM.

CONGRATULATIONS, WORM! YOU SPEARED THE MIGHTY CLENCH!
GAH!
NOW, MIND IF I HELP MYSELF?
THAT'S OKAY, CLENCH, TAKE A REST—
AAAAAHHHH!
—I THINK I CAN TAKE THINGS FROM HERE.
WHOA!
DIDYA SEE—
NOW... CIRCLE FORMATION!
"DESCRIPTIVELY, IT'S CALLOUSNESS TOWARDS VICTIMS, ENCOURAGING AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDES AND TAKING PLEASURE IN PAIN AND HUMILIATION.
"LEGALLY, IT'S EITHER SERIOUS ASSAULT, OR MURDER, DEPENDING ON HOW IT'S EDITED. THEY CALL IT A SPORT—"

AND THIS WOULD BE WHERE HE PROMOTED HIMSELF TO TEAM CAPTAIN.
SO FAR, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE AT LEAST SIXTEEN VOLUMES CONTAINING "ARENA" VIDEO ASSETS.
ALL OF THEM ARE ILLEGAL COMBAT. MOST OF THEM HAVE AT LEAST SOME MATERIAL FEATURING THIS TEAM.
WE CAN CONCLUDE THESE DISKS ARE NETTING *SOMEONE* A FORTUNE.
INEXPENSIVE TO PRODUCE WITH APPROXIMATELY *FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND* OF THIS VOLUME ALONE IN DISTRIBUTION, SO—
LOOK, THE RESPONSE TEAM JUST NEEDS TO KNOW ONE THING—
—WHERE...


...HE ...IS.
ATTEN-SHUN!
PRIME ON DECK!
SENTINEL PRIME, SIR!
BE SEATED.
YOU ALL KNOW HOW I WORK. AND YOU KNOW HOW SERIOUS IT IS THAT I'M HERE. I DON'T PLAY GAMES. THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO GO DOWN.
I WILL HAVE EIGHT TACTICAL RECON TEAMS ON PERMANENT POSTINGS AT PROBABLE FUTURE ARENA VENUES. THERE WILL BE A CORE STRIKE TEAM—HAMMER. IT WILL RESPOND WHEN THE NET IS TRIGGERED.
THEY'RE EVASIVE BUT THEY'RE FAR FROM INVISIBLE.
WE WAIT FOR THEM TO MOVE IN *EN MASSE* AND WHEN THEY TRIP OUR NET, WE GO IN HOT AND WE TAKE THEM DOWN.
"WE HAVE VIDEO ACROSS THE CITY—
"—BULK REAL-TIME DATA PROCESSING THANKS TO OUR TELECLUSTER—
—SECURITY CONTROL IS READY."
INDIVIDUAL TEAMS WILL REDISPERSE AS DESIGNATED. CALLSIGN IS *PANORAMA*. WE *WILL* CRACK DOWN ON THIS CULT—
—AND *THAT* ONE WILL *HANG*.


LOOK AT THIS MESS...
...EVEN PITFIGHTERS WOULD BE SLUMMING IT HERE.
PANORAMA 3 TO MONITOR—WHAT MAKES ANYONE THINK THERE'D BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN RUST GOING DOWN AT A DIVE LIKE THIS?
PANORAMA 3, YOU KNOW THE DRILL—MOUTHS SHUT, EYES OPEN. MAINTAIN RADIO SILENCE UNTIL AN ALPHA TARGET IS SPOTTED OR FIELD TEAM IS COMPROMISED. OVER AND OUT.
EIGHTEEN CYKES OF THIS IS ENOUGH TO MAKE EVEN MY VISION GLITCH.

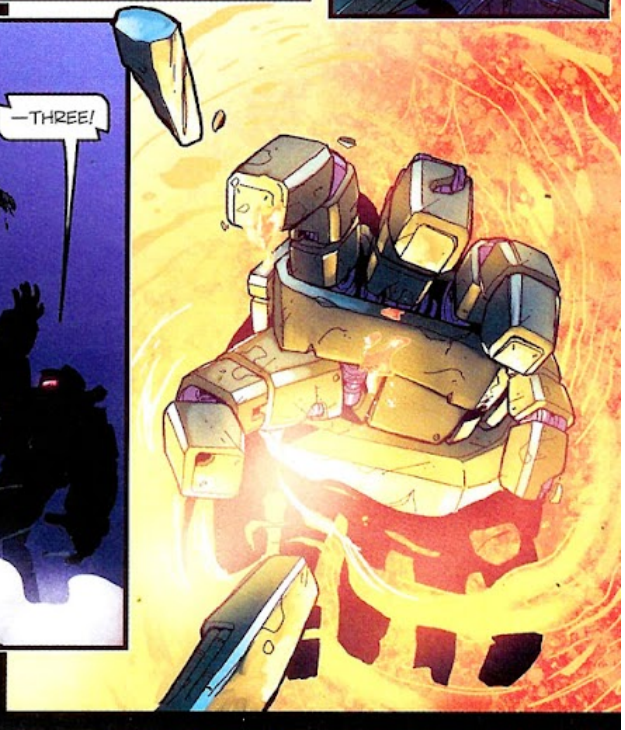


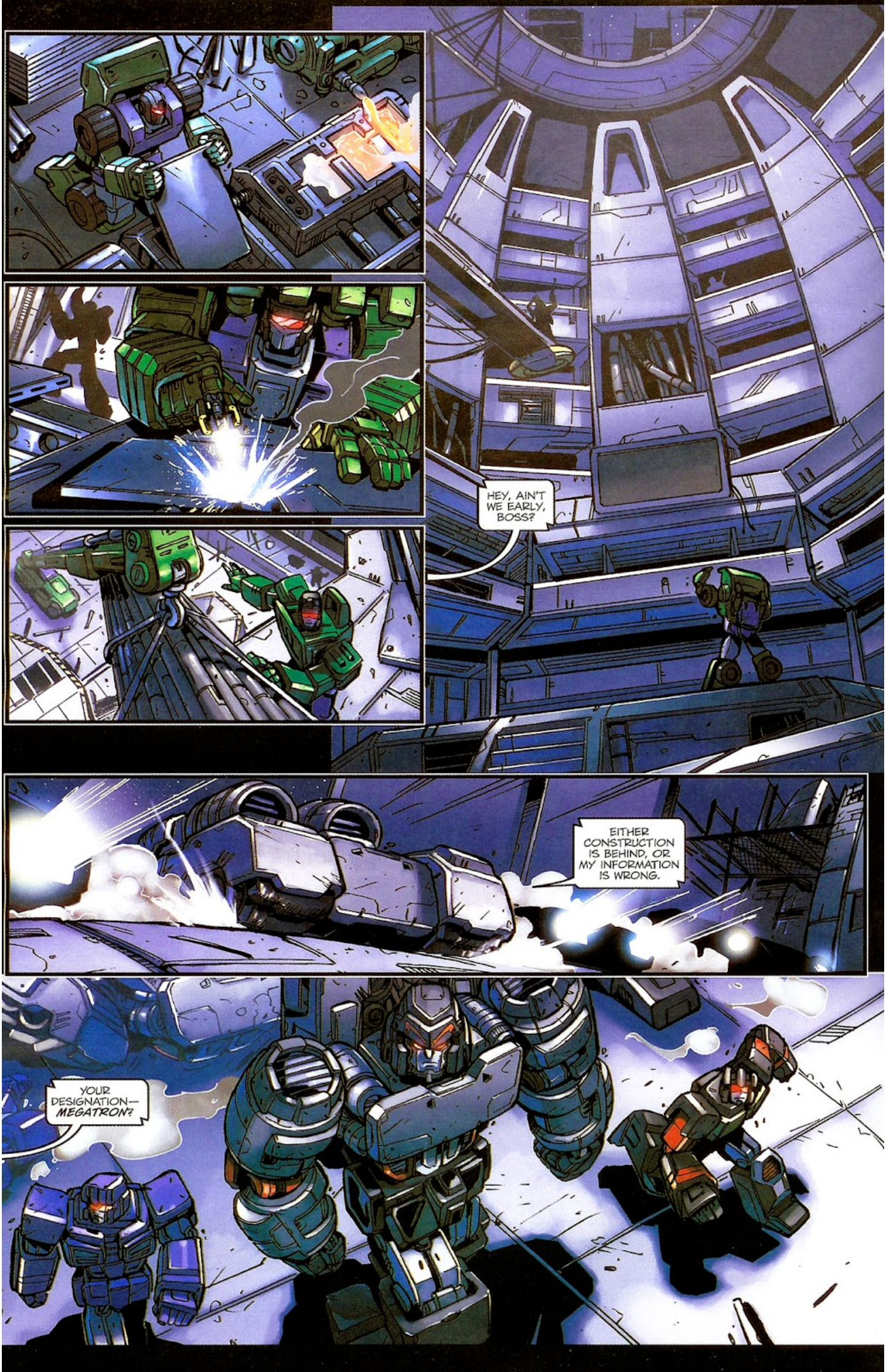
—FASTBACK, YOU GETTING THIS?
NO WONDER WE CAN'T *TRACK* THEM BETWEEN VENUES... THEY DON'T *SHIP* THE ARENA COMPONENTS TO THE VENUE—

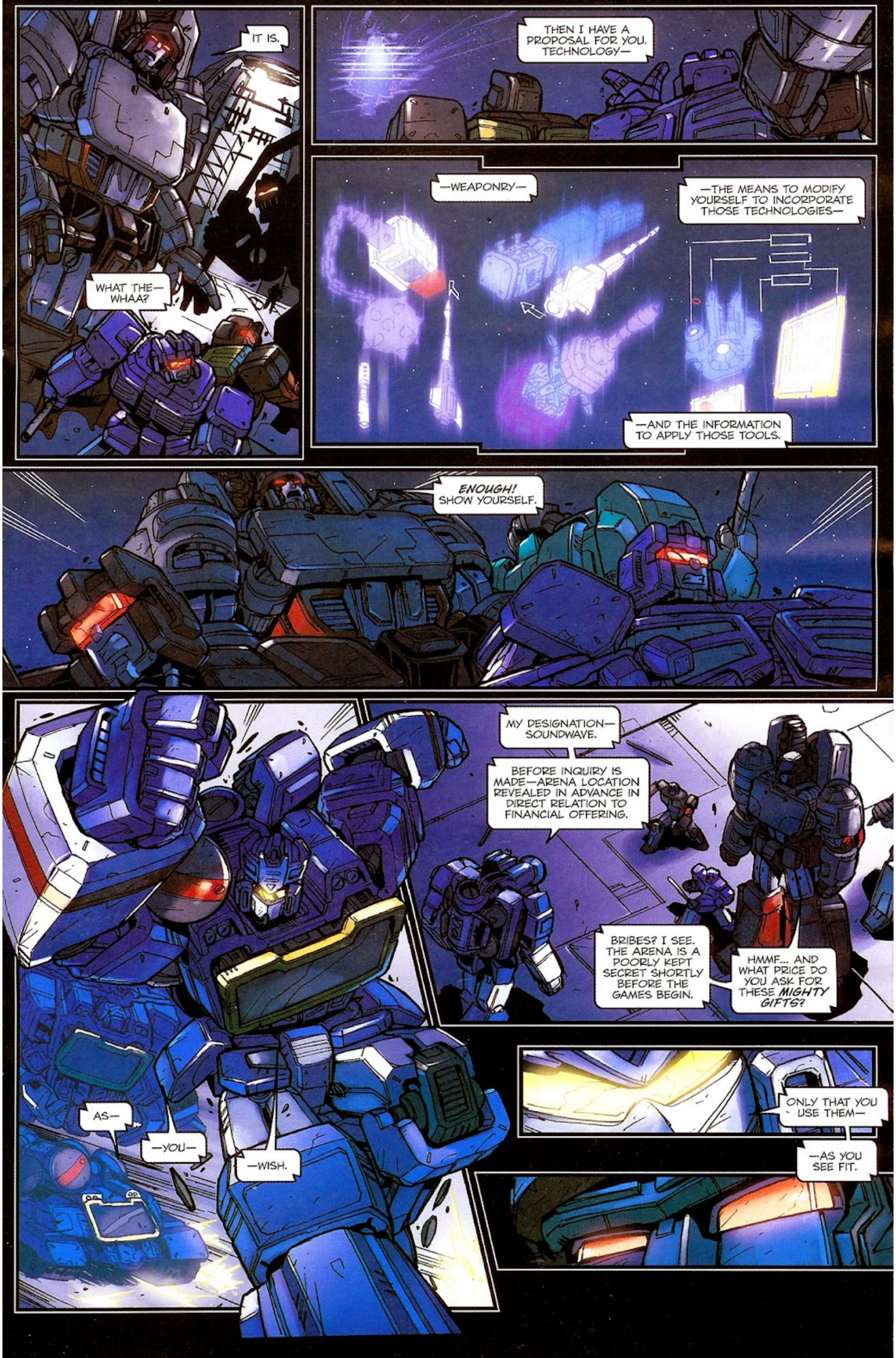
—THEY *BUILD* IT ON-SITE!

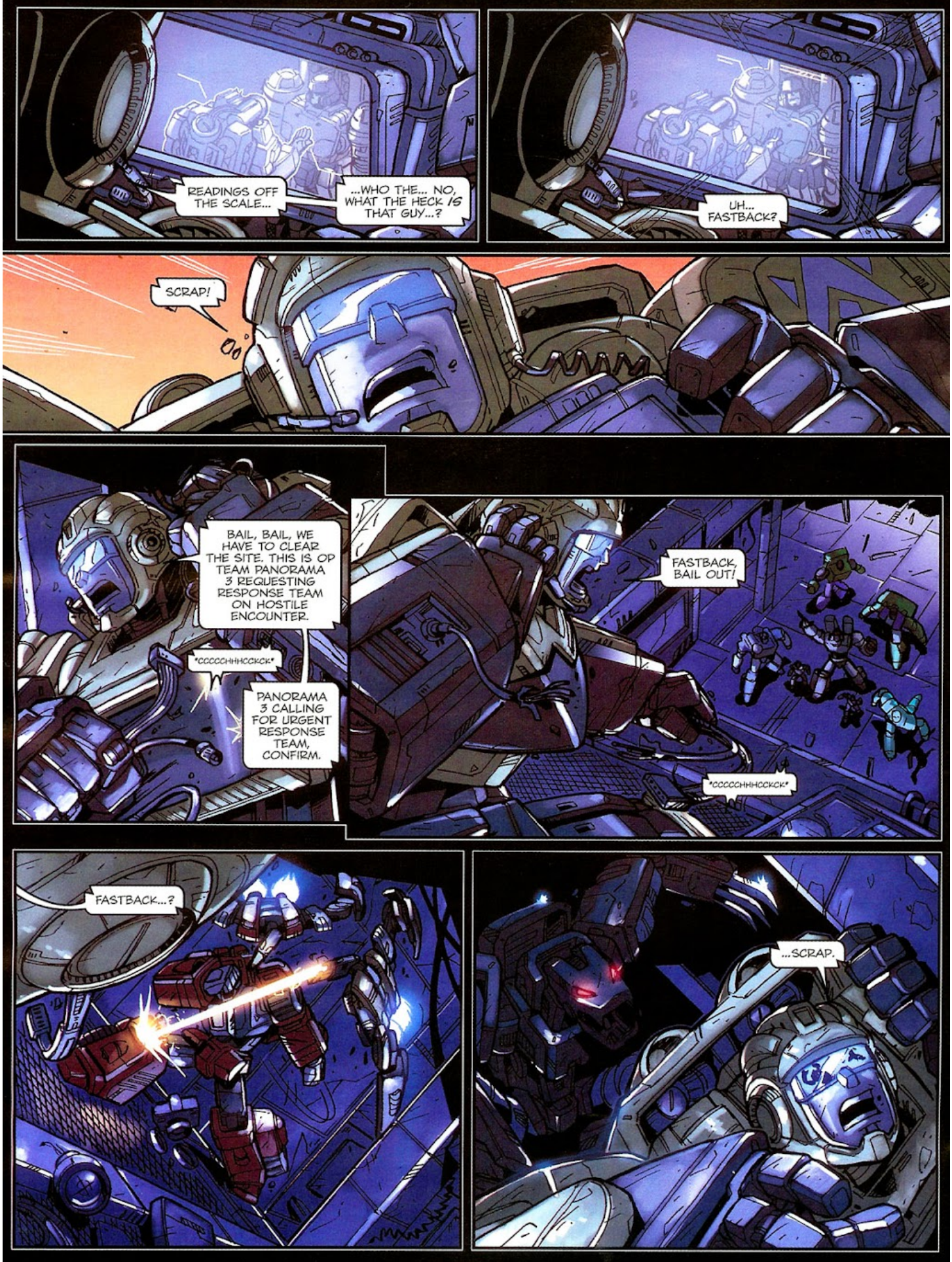
WHA... WHAT?
ON THREE! ONE, TWO—

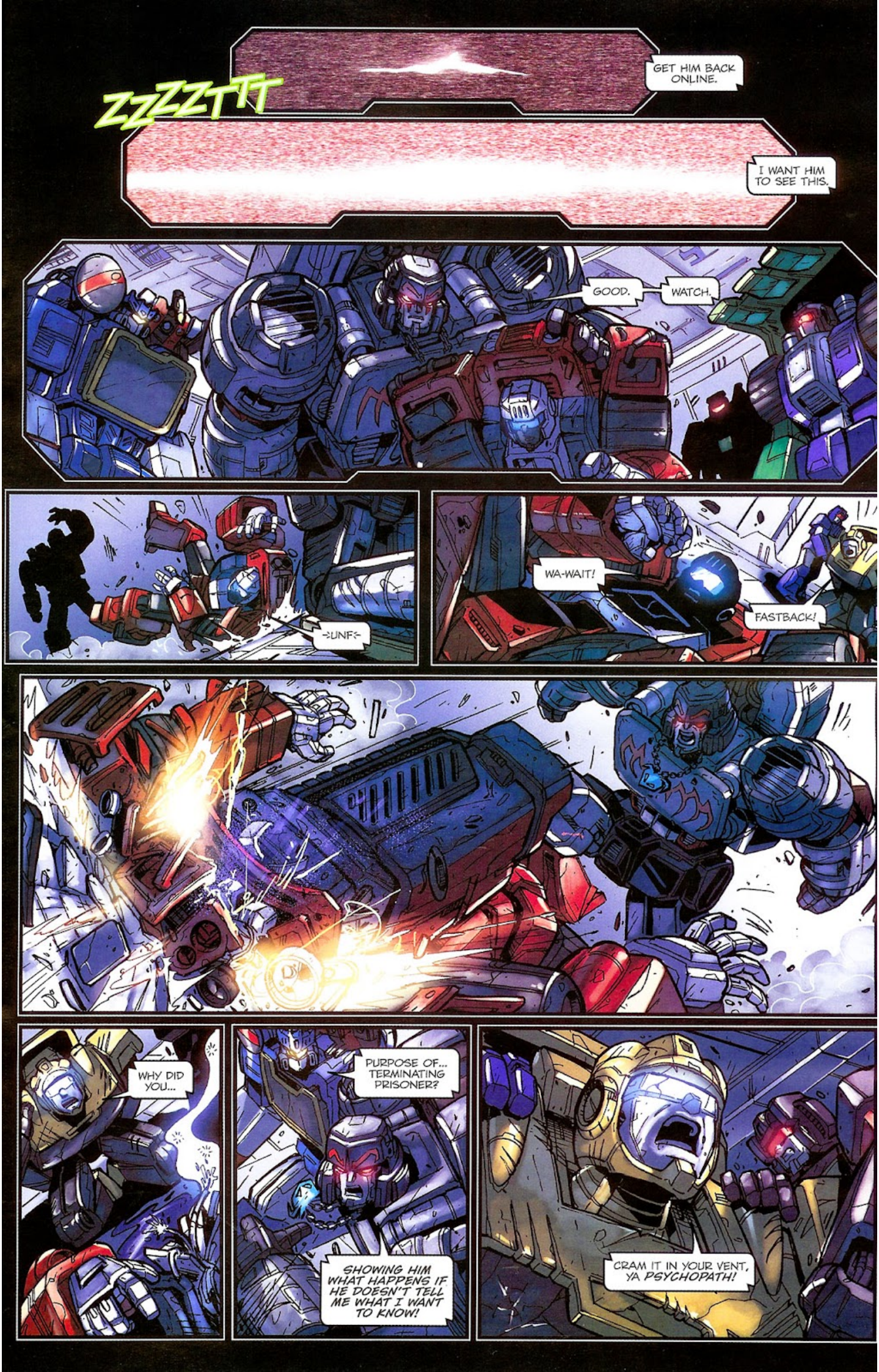
—THREE!

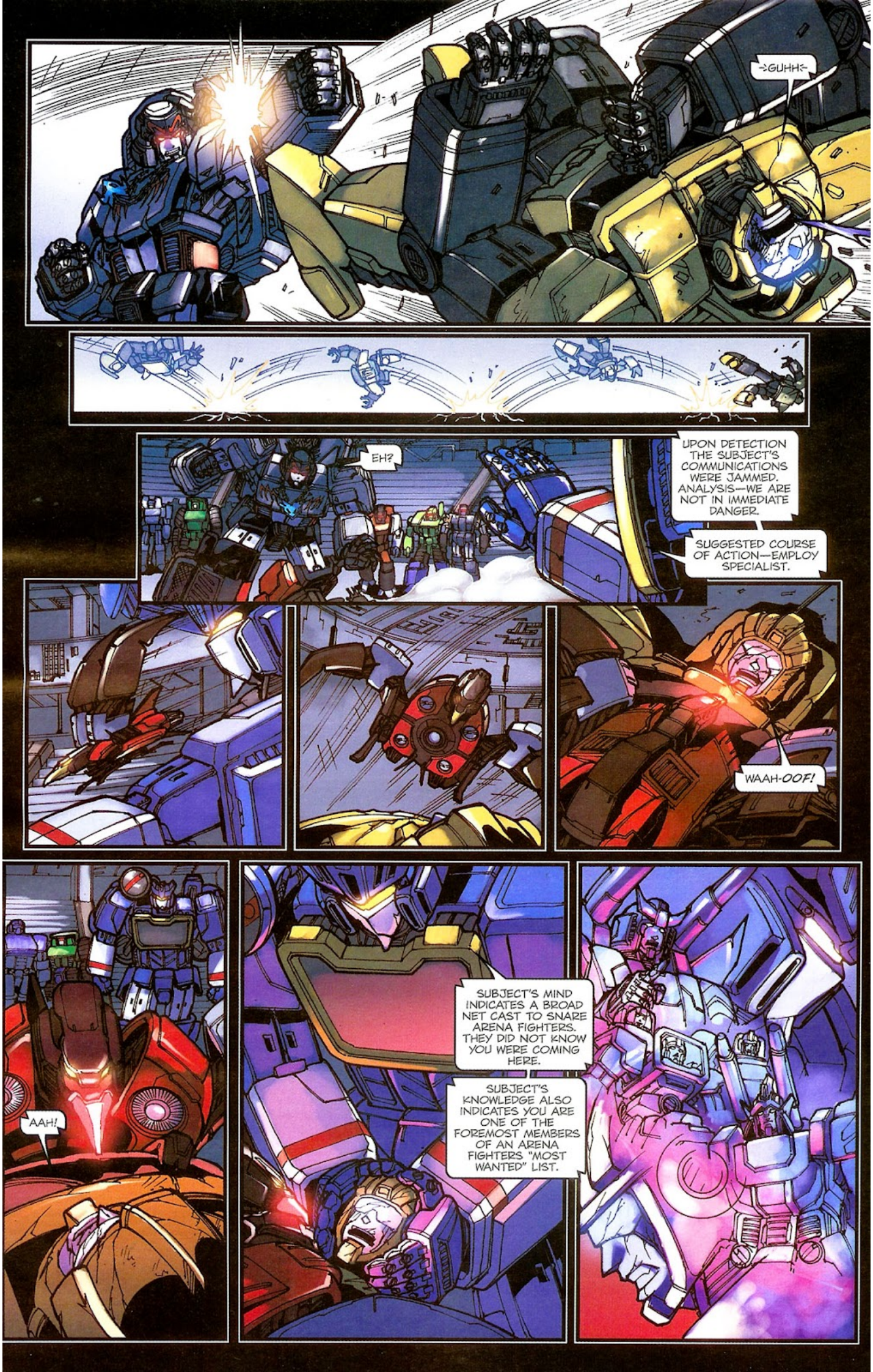


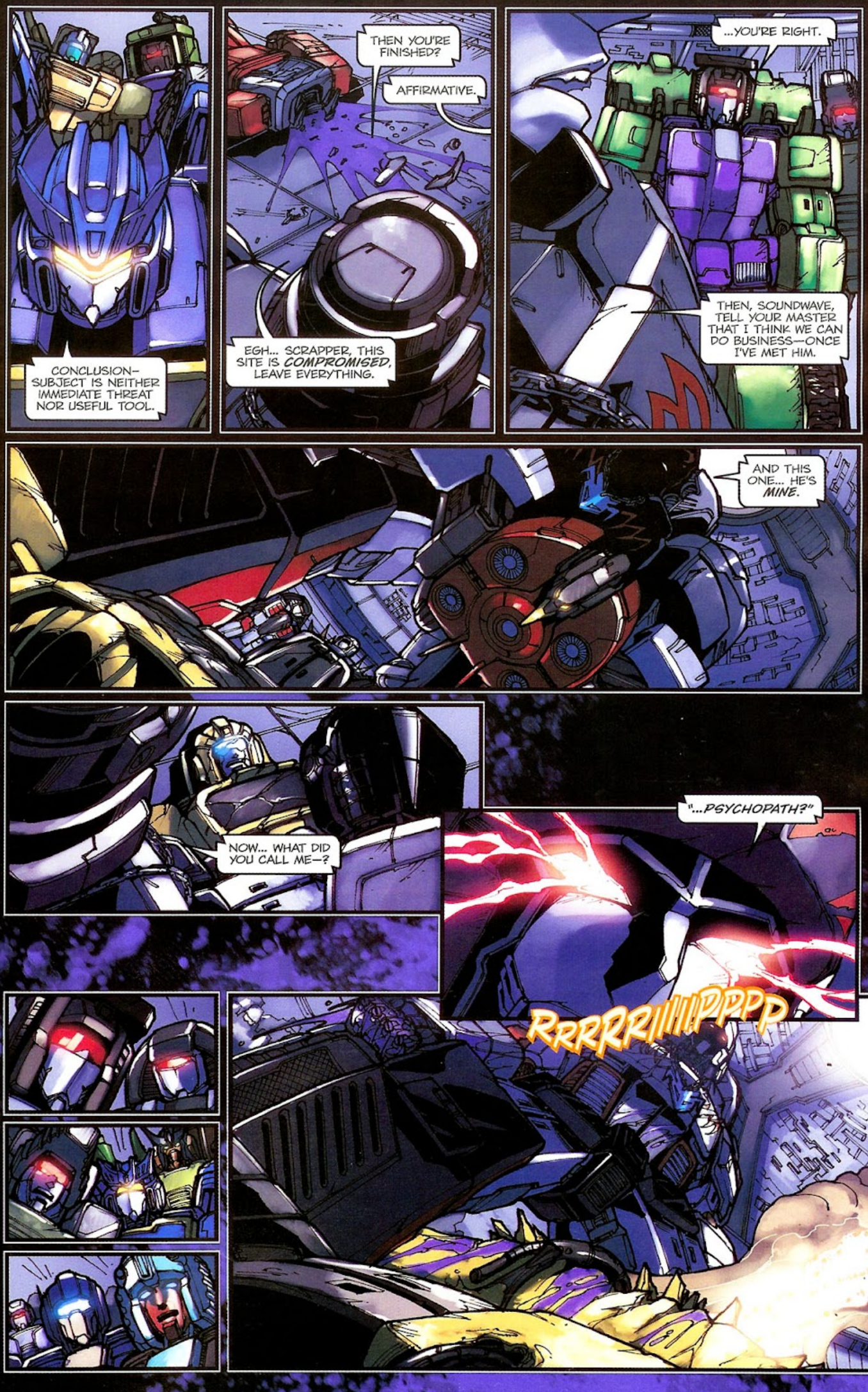

HEY, AIN'T WE EARLY, BOSS?
EITHER CONSTRUCTION IS BEHIND, OR MY INFORMATION IS WRONG.
YOUR DESIGNATION— *MEGATRON*?


IT IS.
WHAT THE— WHAA?
THEN I HAVE A PROPOSAL FOR YOU. TECHNOLOGY—
—WEAPONRY—
—THE MEANS TO MODIFY YOURSELF TO INCORPORATE THOSE TECHNOLOGIES—
—AND THE INFORMATION TO APPLY THOSE TOOLS.
ENOUGH! SHOW YOURSELF.
MY DESIGNATION— SOUNDWAVE.
BEFORE INQUIRY IS MADE—ARENA LOCATION REVEALED IN ADVANCE IN DIRECT RELATION TO FINANCIAL OFFERING.
BRIBES? I SEE. THE ARENA IS A POORLY KEPT SECRET SHORTLY BEFORE THE GAMES BEGIN.
HMMF... AND WHAT PRICE DO YOU ASK FOR THESE MIGHTY GIFTS?
AS—
—YOU—
—WISH.
ONLY THAT YOU USE THEM—
—AS YOU SEE FIT.

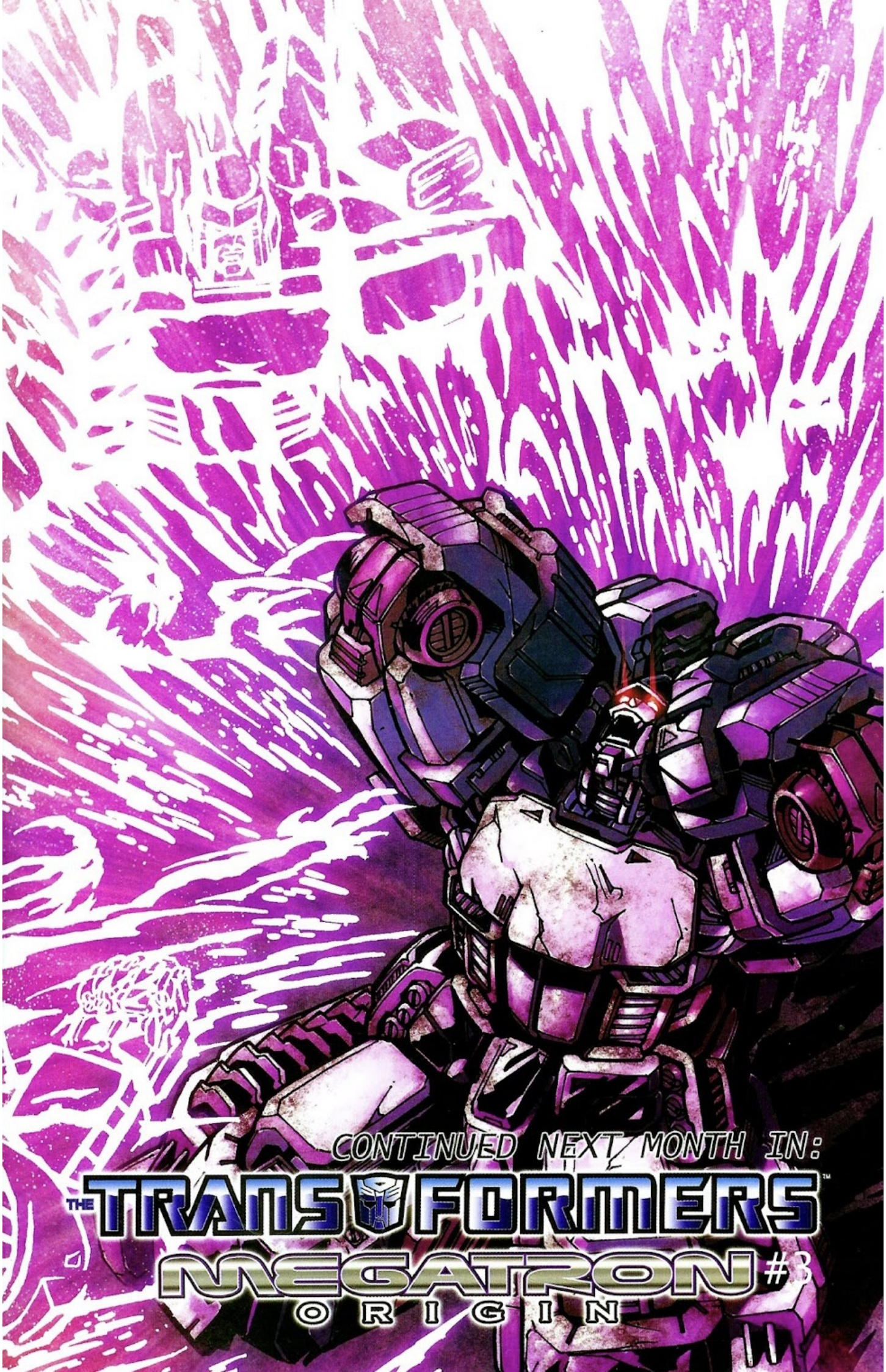

READINGS OFF THE SCALE...
...WHO THE... NO, WHAT THE HECK *IS* THAT GUY...?
UH... FASTBACK?
SCRAP!
BAIL, BAIL, WE HAVE TO CLEAR THE SITE. THIS IS OP TEAM PANORAMA 3 REQUESTING RESPONSE TEAM ON HOSTILE ENCOUNTER.
CCCCHHHCCKCK
PANORAMA 3 CALLING FOR URGENT RESPONSE TEAM, CONFIRM.
FASTBACK, BAIL OUT!
CCCCHHHCCKCK
FASTBACK...?
...SCRAP.


ZZZZTTT
GET HIM BACK ONLINE.
I WANT HIM TO SEE THIS.
GOOD.
WATCH.
-UNF-
WA-WAIT!
FASTBACK!
WHY DID YOU...
PURPOSE OF... TERMINATING PRISONER?
SHOWING HIM WHAT HAPPENS IF HE DOESN'T TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!
CRAM IT IN YOUR VENT, YA PSYCHOPATH!


-GUHH-
EH?
UPON DETECTION THE SUBJECT'S COMMUNICATIONS WERE JAMMED. ANALYSIS—WE ARE NOT IN IMMEDIATE DANGER.
SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION—EMPLOY SPECIALIST.
WAAH-OOF!
AAH!
SUBJECT'S MIND INDICATES A BROAD NET CAST TO SNARE ARENA FIGHTERS. THEY DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE COMING HERE.
SUBJECT'S KNOWLEDGE ALSO INDICATES YOU ARE ONE OF THE FOREMOST MEMBERS OF AN ARENA FIGHTERS "MOST WANTED" LIST.


CONCLUSION— SUBJECT IS NEITHER IMMEDIATE THREAT NOR USEFUL TOOL.
THEN YOU'RE FINISHED?
AFFIRMATIVE.
EGH... SCRAPPER, THIS SITE IS *COMPROMISED*, LEAVE EVERYTHING.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
THEN, SOUNDWAVE, TELL YOUR MASTER THAT I THINK WE CAN DO BUSINESS—ONCE I'VE MET HIM.
AND THIS ONE... HE'S *MINE*.
NOW... WHAT DID YOU CALL ME—?
"...PSYCHOPATH?"
RRRRRIIIIIPPPP

TO BE CONTINUED.

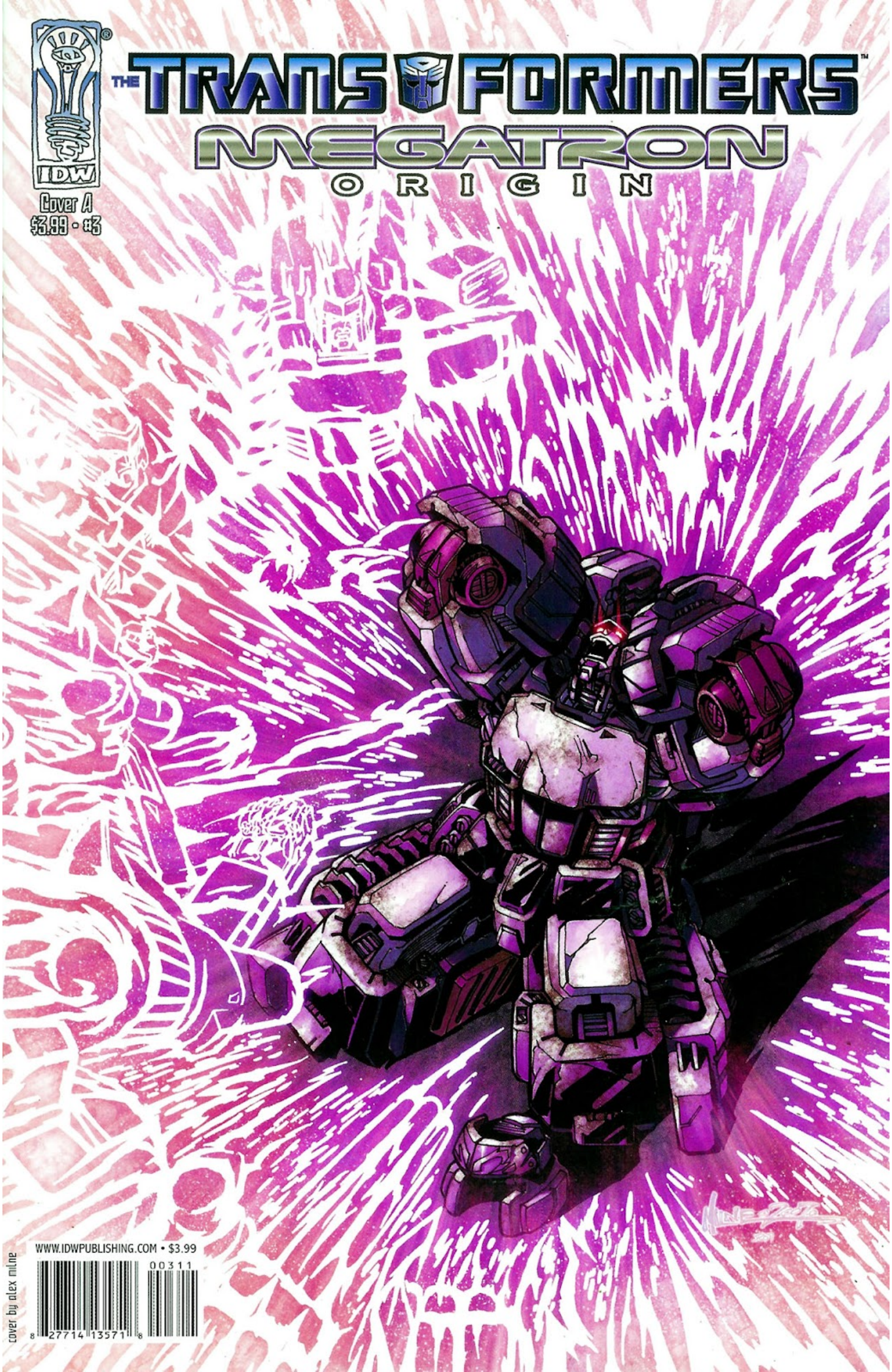

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH IN:
THE TRANSFORMERS
MEGATRON #3
ORIGIN

The Transformers: Megatron Origin #2
Cover Checklist

Cover A
Alex Milne
colors by Josh Perez

Cover B
Marcelo Matere
colors by Andrew Elder

Cover RI-A
Alex Milne
Sketch Cover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Limits

The troubled city of KAON is a place without hope but with an excess in suffering. An illegal underground fighting circuit grows in scale and notoriety. Fighters with empty tanks gather at secret locations, certain that they will earn release from their miserable lives; they will receive fuel and fame—or death. At the dark heart of the violent spectacles stands the sport's rising star—MEGATRON.

In this time of instability it is SENTINEL PRIME himself that leads KAON's Security Forces. His team—motivated. His reputation—uncompromising. His orders—burn out this cancer before it spreads.

It won't be easy.

THE TRANSFORMERS: MEGATRON ORIGIN

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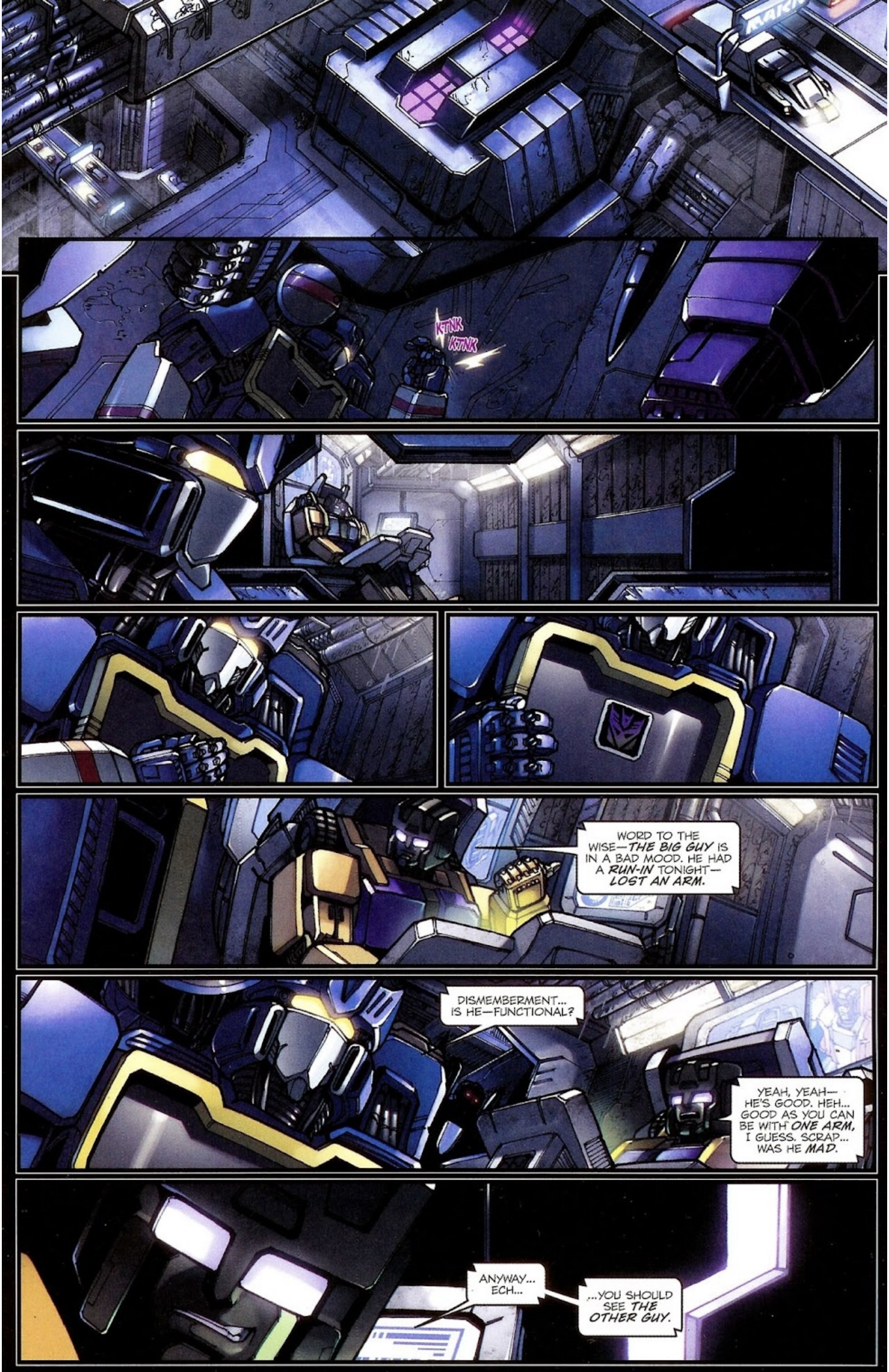
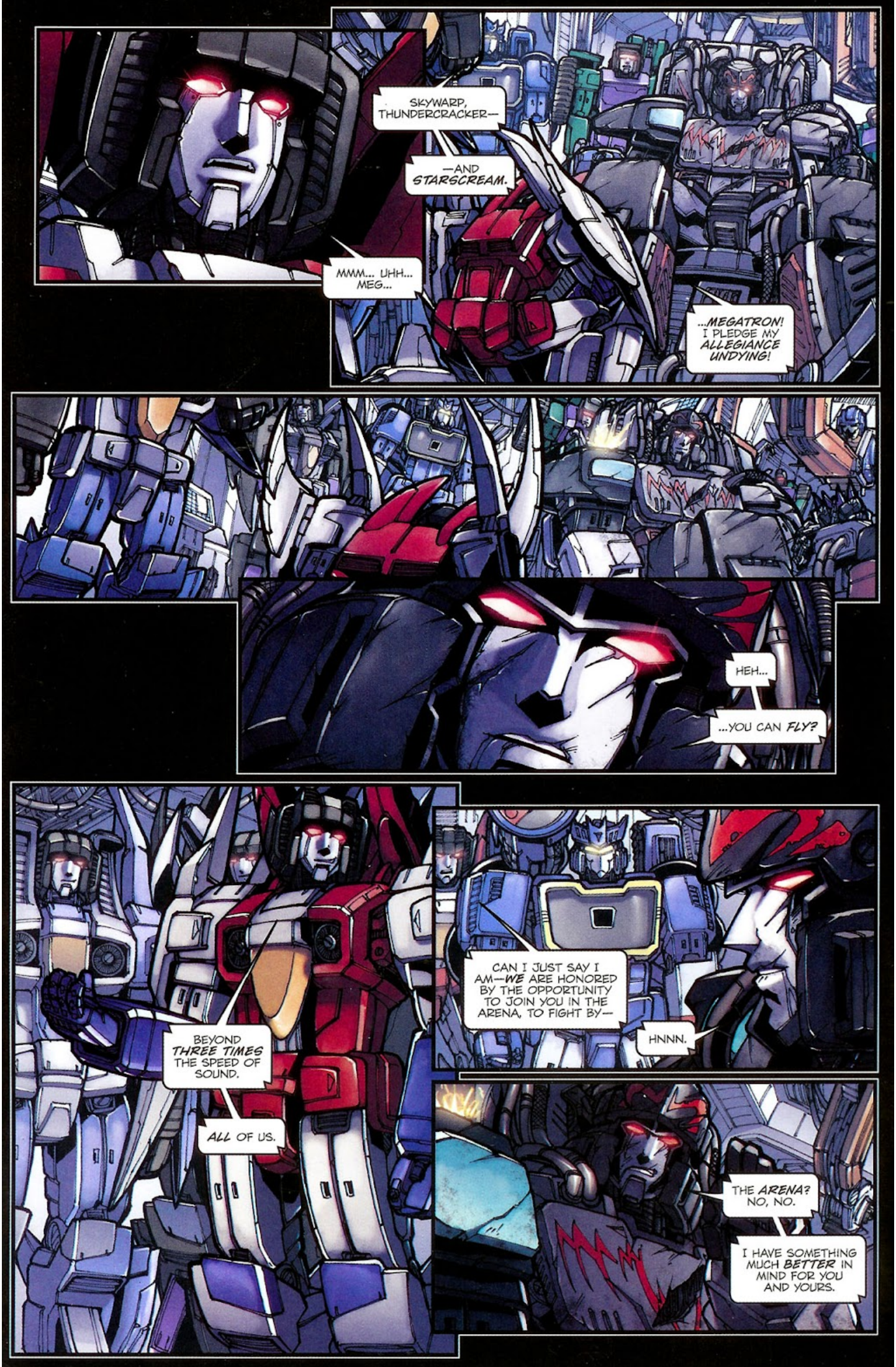
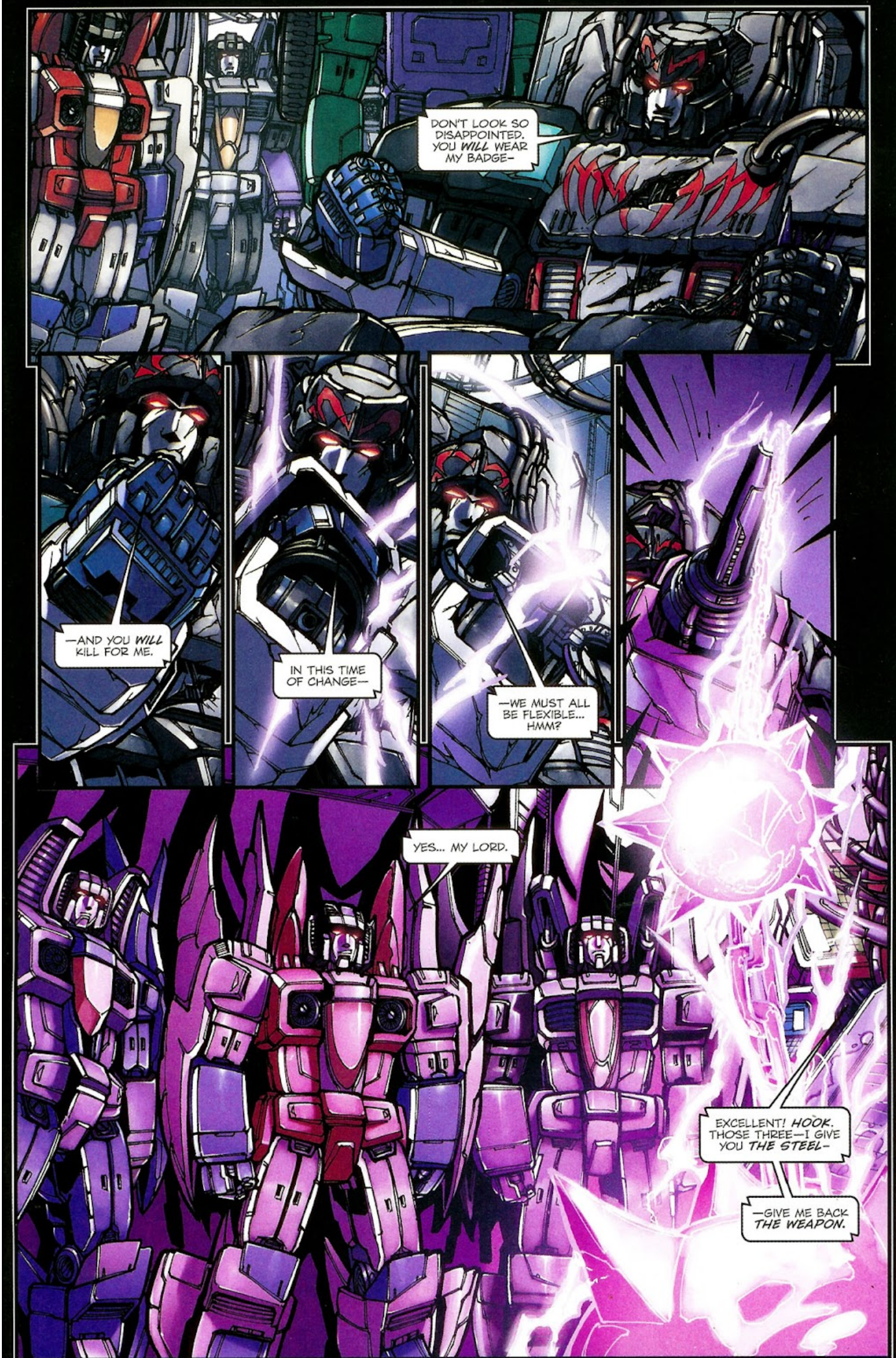

KTNK
KTNK
WORD TO THE WISE—*THE BIG GUY* IS IN A BAD MOOD. HE HAD A *RUN-IN* TONIGHT—*LOST AN ARM.*
DISMEMBERMENT... IS HE—FUNCTIONAL?
YEAH, YEAH—HE'S GOOD. HEH... GOOD AS YOU CAN BE WITH *ONE ARM,* I GUESS. SCRAP... WAS HE *MAD.*
ANYWAY... ECH...
...YOU SHOULD SEE *THE OTHER GUY.*

HNNN... WHAT DO YOU WANT?

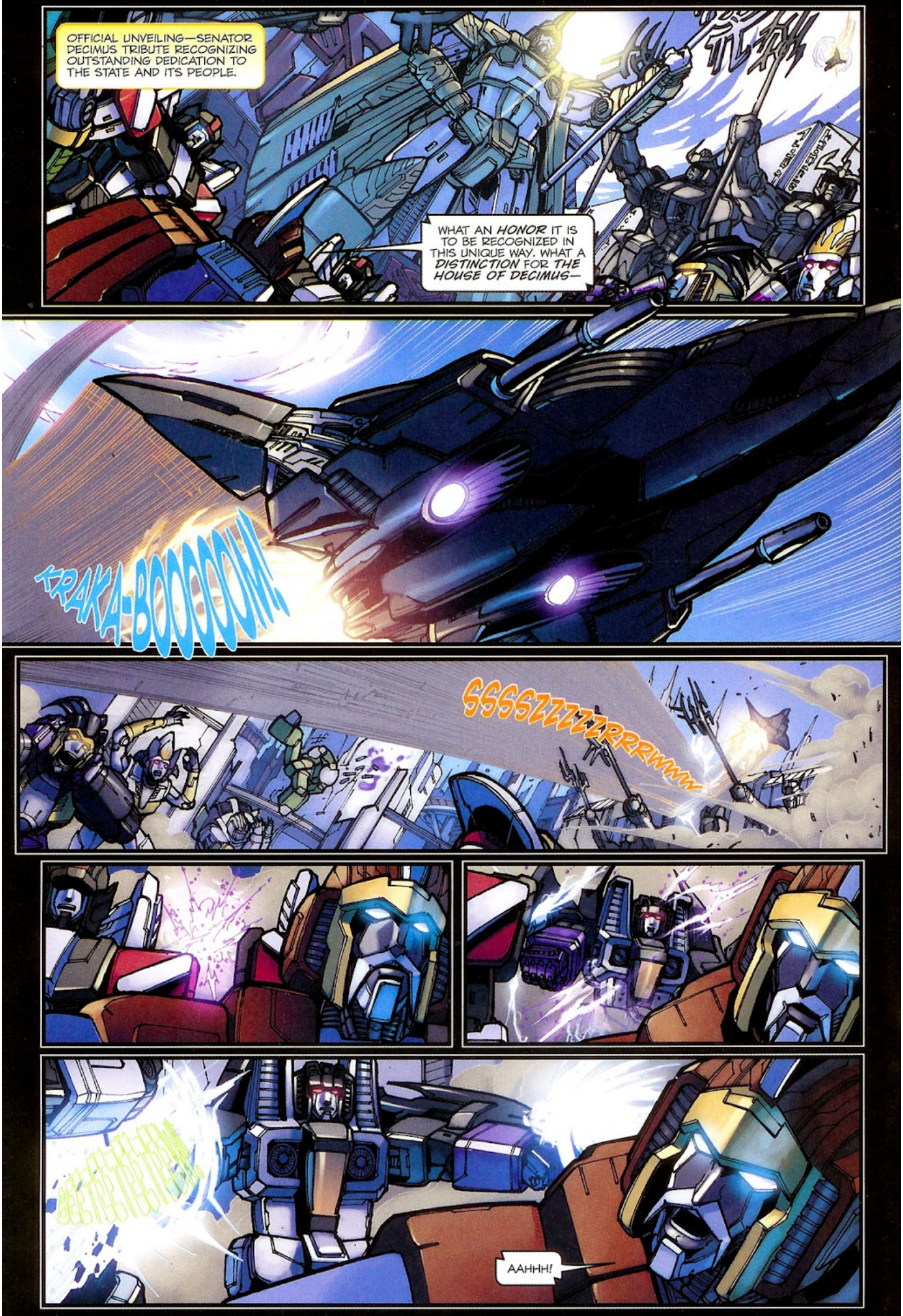
YOUR REQUEST—FOR A FLIGHT-CAPABLE COMBATANT?
HRM.
YOU HAVE ONE?
NEGATIVE. I PRESENT THREE.

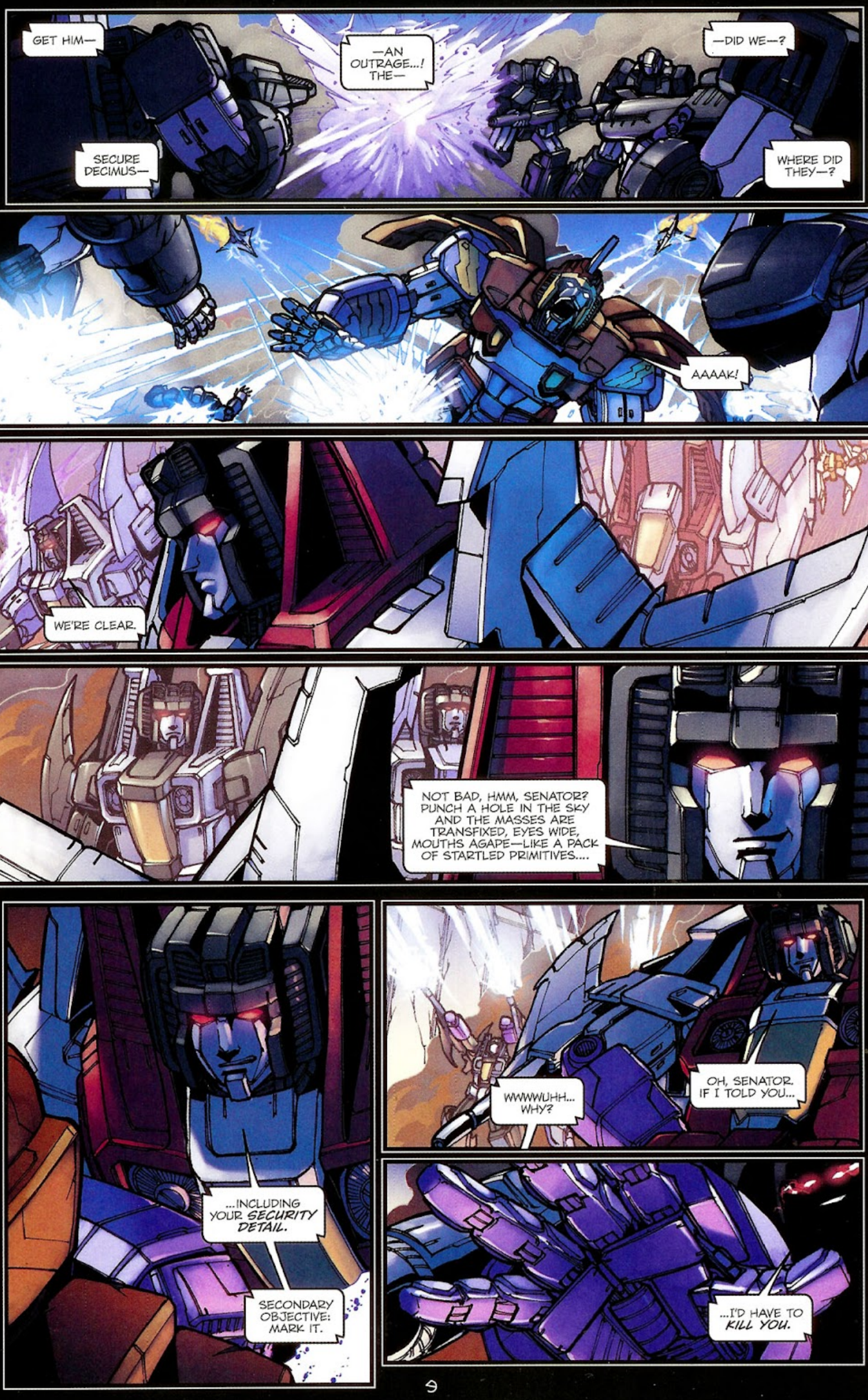

SKYWARP, THUNDERCRACKER—
—AND STARSCREAM.
MMM... UHH... MEG...
...MEGATRON! I PLEDGE MY ALLEGIANCE UNDYING!
HEH...
...YOU CAN FLY?
CAN I JUST SAY I AM—WE ARE HONORED BY THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN YOU IN THE ARENA, TO FIGHT BY—
HNNN.
BEYOND THREE TIMES THE SPEED OF SOUND.
ALL OF US.
THE ARENA? NO, NO.
I HAVE SOMETHING MUCH BETTER IN MIND FOR YOU AND YOURS.

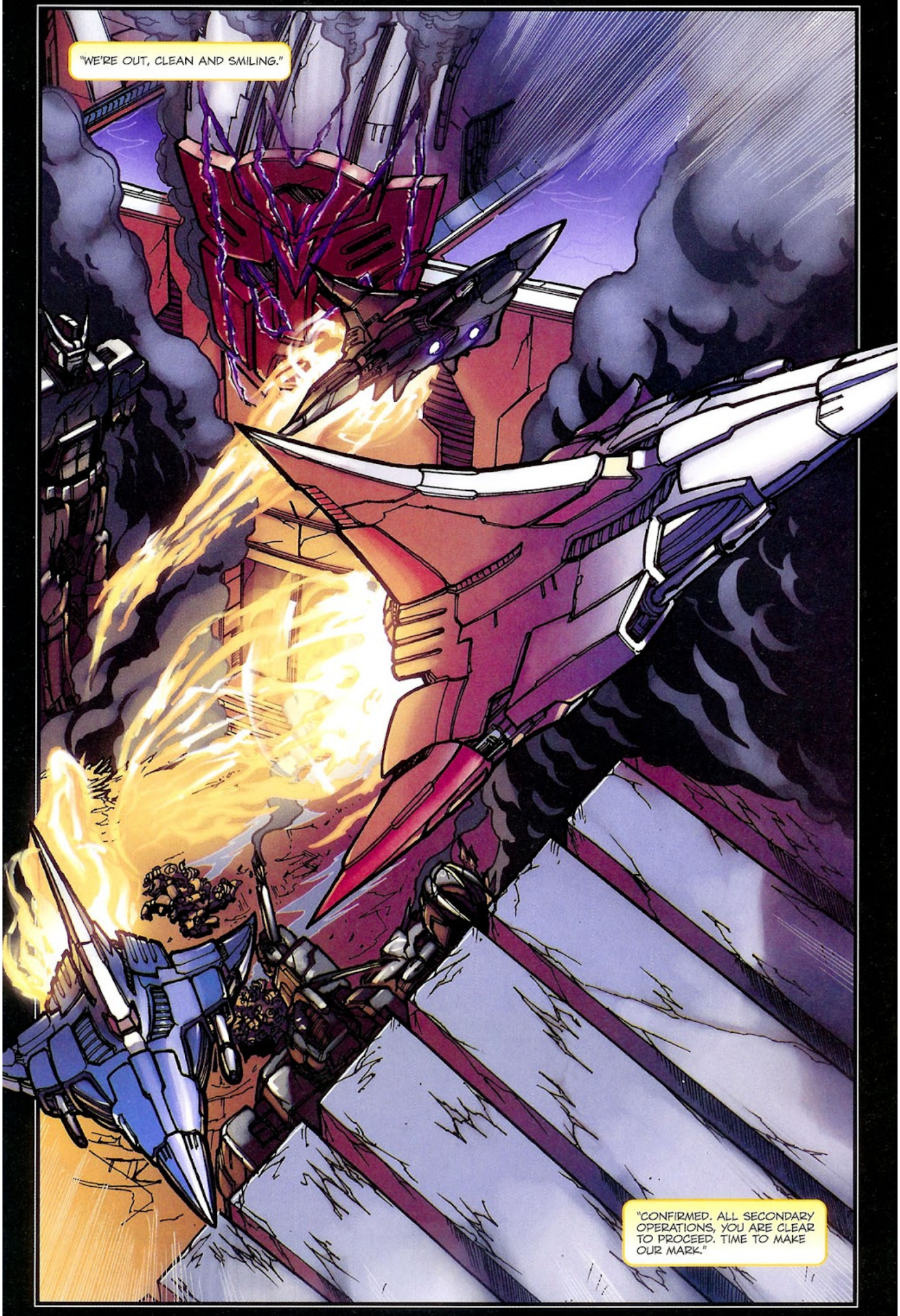

DON'T LOOK SO DISAPPOINTED. YOU *WILL* WEAR MY BADGE—
—AND YOU *WILL* KILL FOR ME.
IN THIS TIME OF CHANGE—
—WE MUST ALL BE FLEXIBLE... HMM?
YES... MY LORD.
EXCELLENT! *HOOK.* THOSE THREE—I GIVE YOU *THE STEEL*—
—GIVE ME BACK *THE WEAPON.*

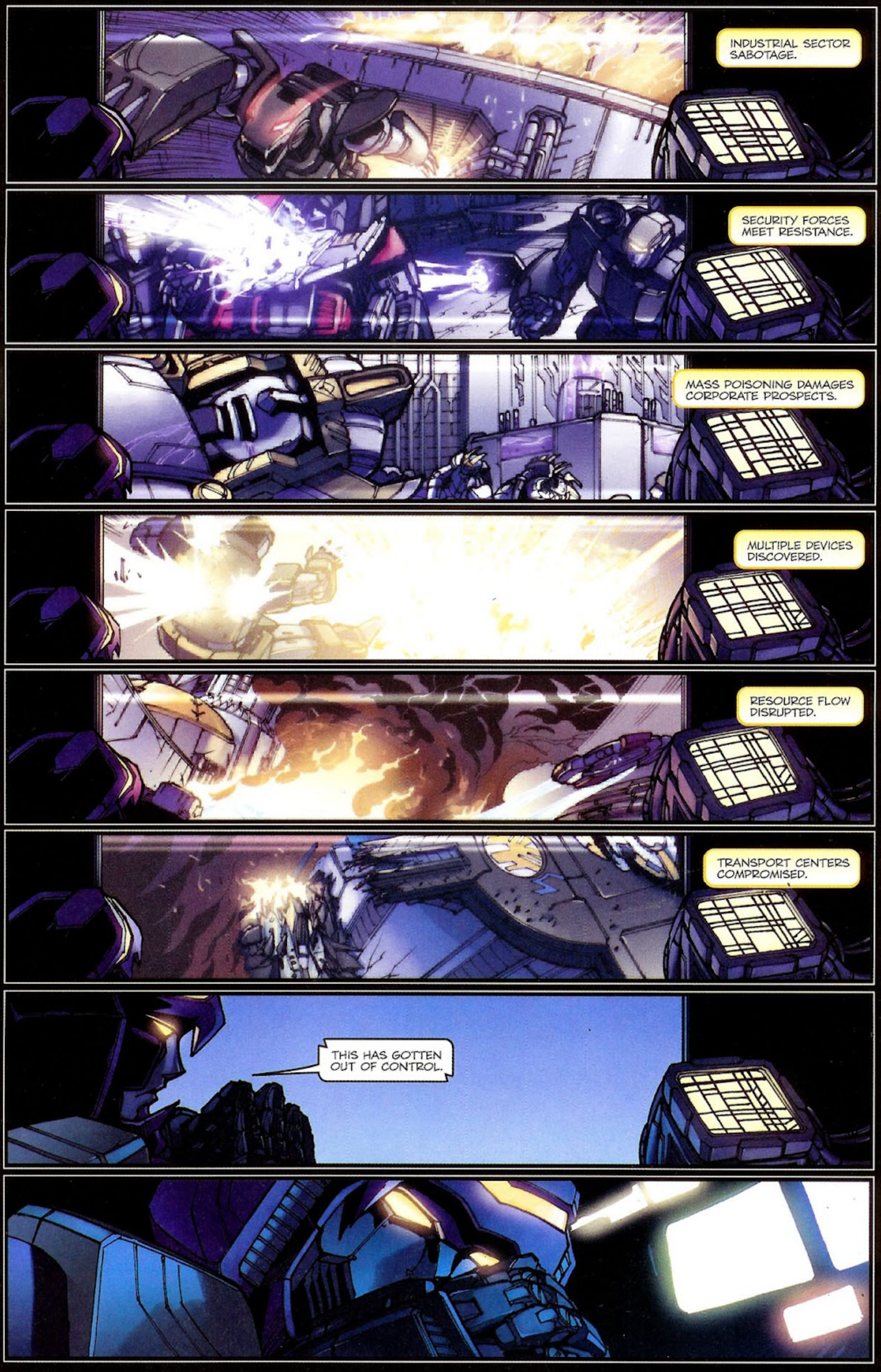
STATE FUNERAL SERVICE
MEMORIAL AND INTERNMENT

WORDS FALL SHORT OF THE MARK.
LOSING ONE OF OUR OWN IS NEVER EASY.
THIS IS A GREAT LOSS...
...BUT THIS IS NO TRAGEDY.
LOSS OF LIFE IS ONLY A TRAGEDY IF IT IS WITHOUT PURPOSE. SOME SAY THAT WE MAY NOT SEE THE PURPOSE IMMEDIATELY, BUT THAT IT WILL PRESENT ITSELF IN TIME.
TO ME, THIS TRAGEDY OFFERS AN IMMEDIATE, STARTLING PURPOSE. A CRYSTAL CLARITY.
I AM ONLY THE HEAD OF THE SECURITY FORCES. I DO NOT MAKE POLICY—TOGETHER WE SIMPLY ENFORCE LAW. THE DIFFERENCE NOW IS THAT THESE OUTLAWS HAVE OUR ATTENTION. THE ONLY QUESTION UNANSWERED—
—IS WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?


OFFICIAL UNVEILING—SENATOR DECIMUS TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING DEDICATION TO THE STATE AND ITS PEOPLE.
WHAT AN *HONOR* IT IS TO BE RECOGNIZED IN THIS UNIQUE WAY. WHAT A *DISTINCTION* FOR *THE HOUSE OF DECIMUS*—
KRAKA-BOOOOOM.
SSSSZZZZZRRRWWW
AAHHH!

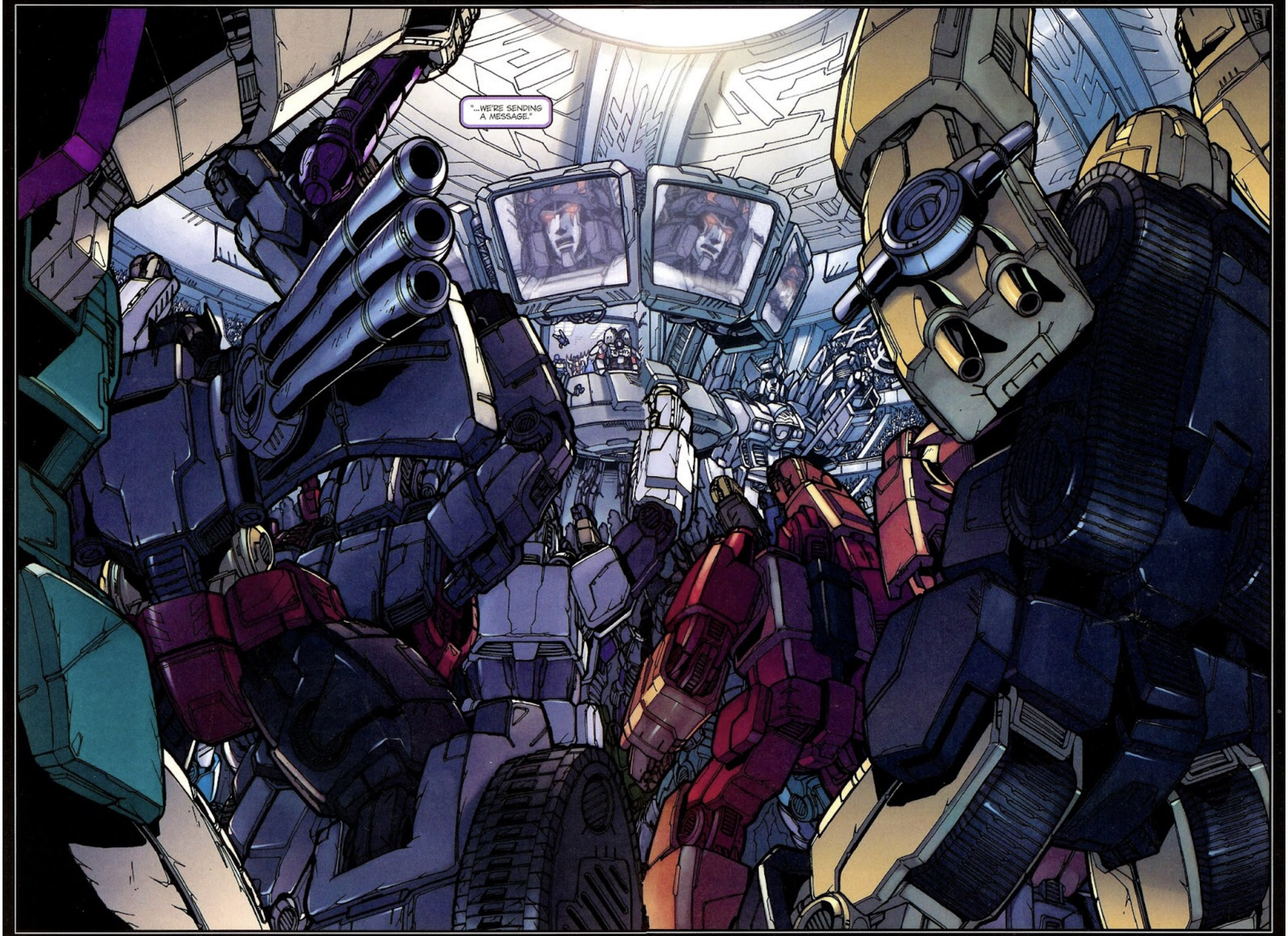

GET HIM—
—AN OUTRAGE...! THE—
—DID WE—?
SECURE DECIMUS—
WHERE DID THEY—?
AAAAK!
WE'RE CLEAR.
NOT BAD, HMM, SENATOR? PUNCH A HOLE IN THE SKY AND THE MASSES ARE TRANSFIXED, EYES WIDE, MOUTHS AGAPE—LIKE A PACK OF STARTLED PRIMITIVES....
WWWWUHH... WHY?
OH, SENATOR. IF I TOLD YOU...
...INCLUDING YOUR SECURITY DETAIL.
SECONDARY OBJECTIVE: MARK IT.
...I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU.

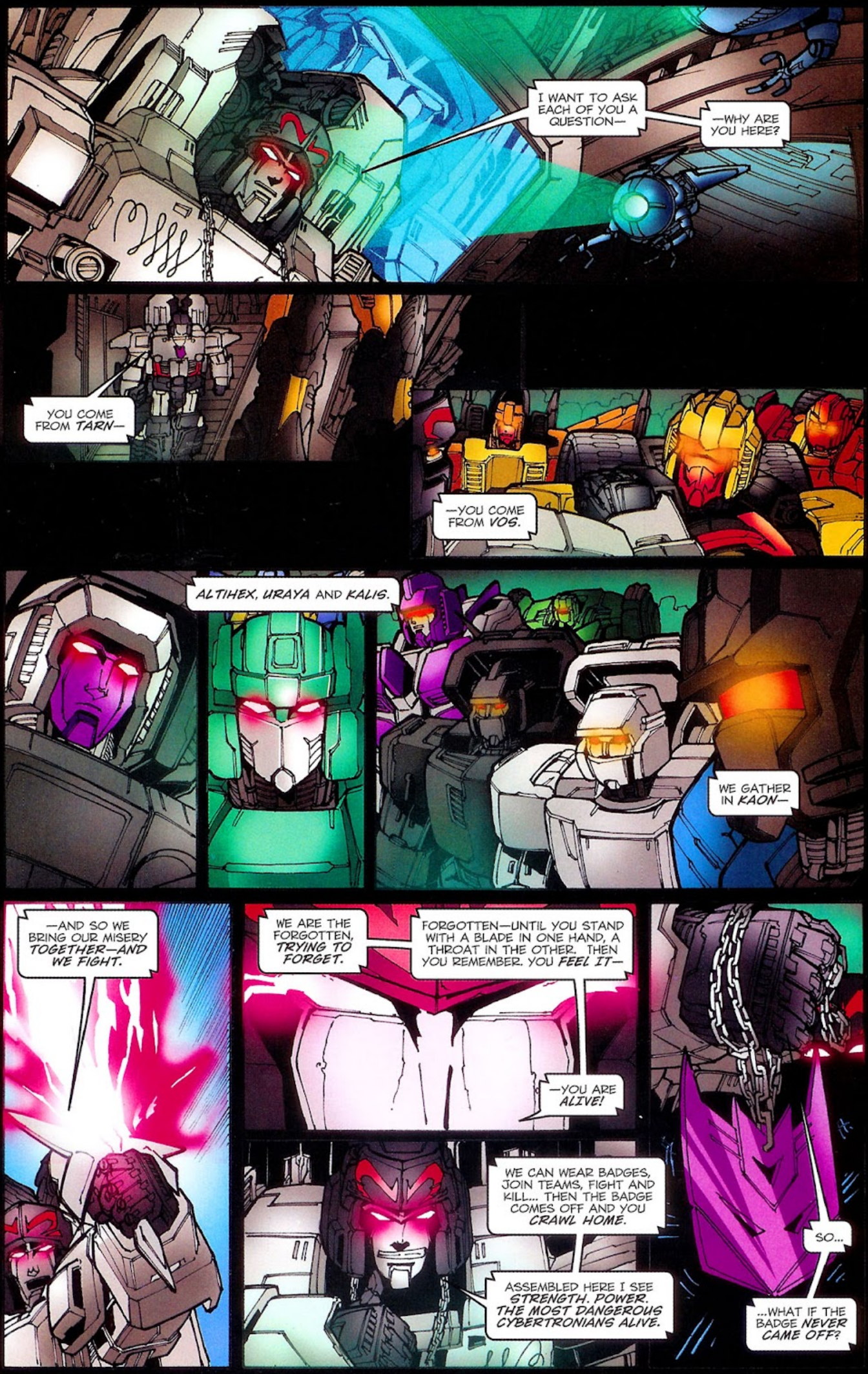

"WE'RE OUT, CLEAN AND SMILING."
"CONFIRMED. ALL SECONDARY OPERATIONS, YOU ARE CLEAR TO PROCEED. TIME TO MAKE OUR MARK."


INDUSTRIAL SECTOR SABOTAGE.
SECURITY FORCES MEET RESISTANCE.
MASS POISONING DAMAGES CORPORATE PROSPECTS.
MULTIPLE DEVICES DISCOVERED.
RESOURCE FLOW DISRUPTED.
TRANSPORT CENTERS COMPROMISED.
THIS HAS GOTTEN OUT OF CONTROL.

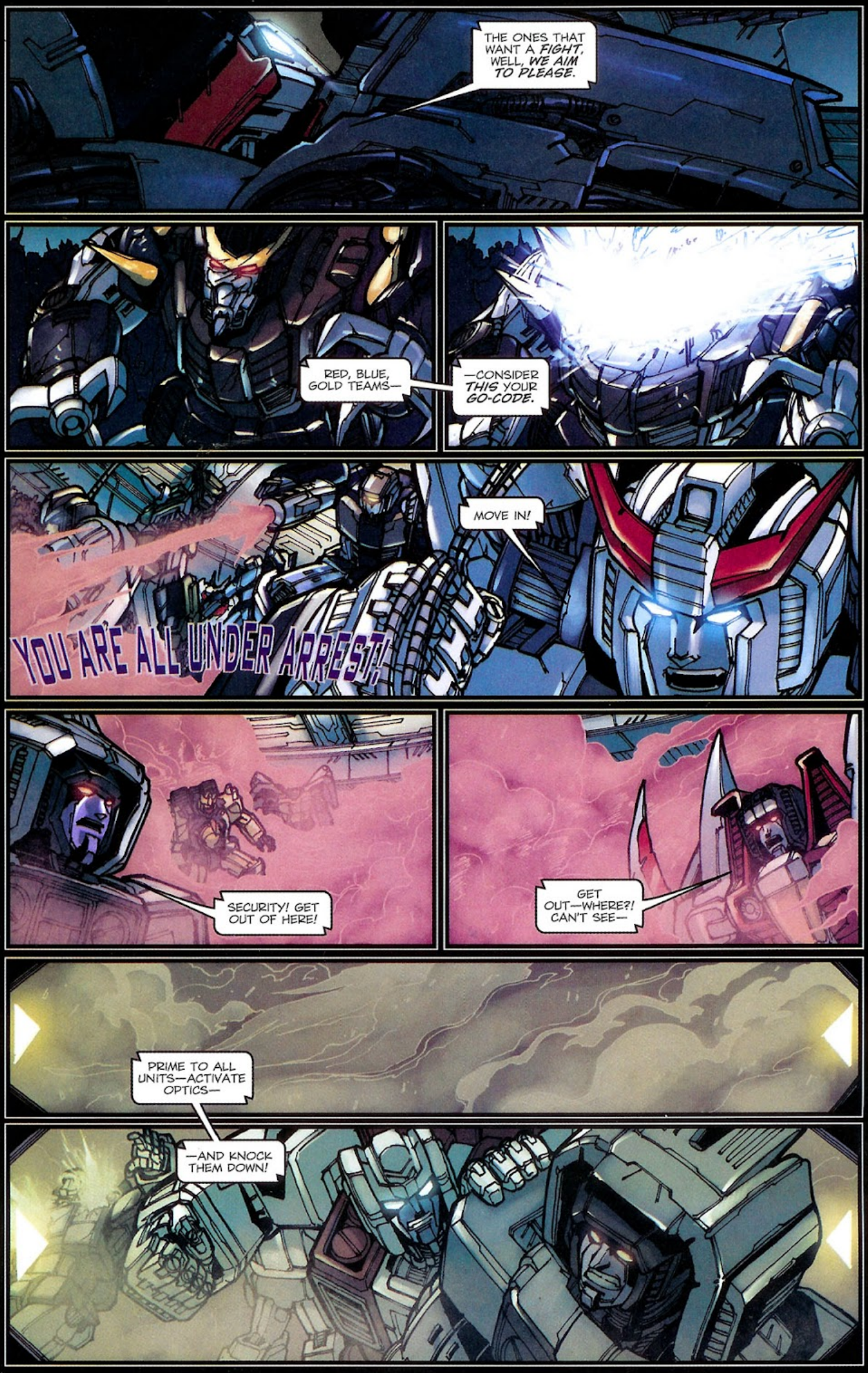
SECRET LOCATION.
DON'T MAKE ME TAKE ALL THE GLORY.
I'LL WATCH THE FIGHTS, BUT, BRO— I DON'T WANT YOU IN THERE.
C'MON... IT'S ME!
I NEVER LOSE!
I AM SO GONNA MAKE THE TEAM.
SHUT UP.
MEGATRON CALLS AND MANY COME.
PFFF... AMATEUR NIGHT...
...MOSTLY.
GOTTA WIN TODAY. TANK IS RUST DRY.
WE WILL.
EYES OPEN. DON'T NEED BUZZER TO START FIGHT. CROWD LIKE THIS, WE PLAY IT DIRTY—OR PLAY IT DEAD.

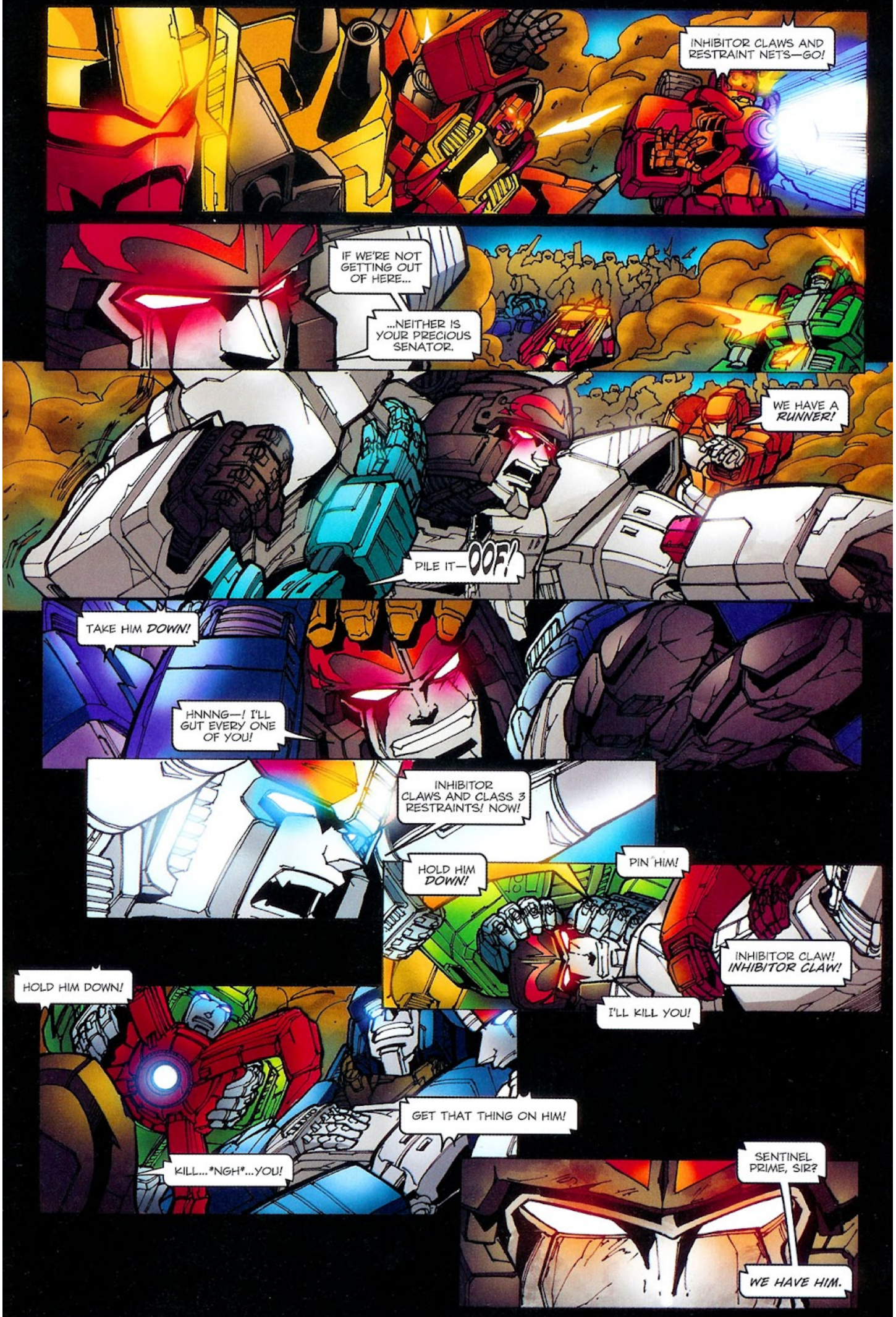
BUT, BOSS—
I'VE DECIDED. THERE WILL BE NO DEBATE. YOU'VE BOTH BEEN MODIFIED FOR A REASON.
BUT—
GYAAHH!
SO... SOUNDWAVE IT IS!
ALMOST LATE. ON TASK?
THE... AH... TASK IS COMPLETE. I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THE 'WHY' OF IT ALL...?
JUST REMEMBER WHAT WE AGREED.
YOU COULD SAY...

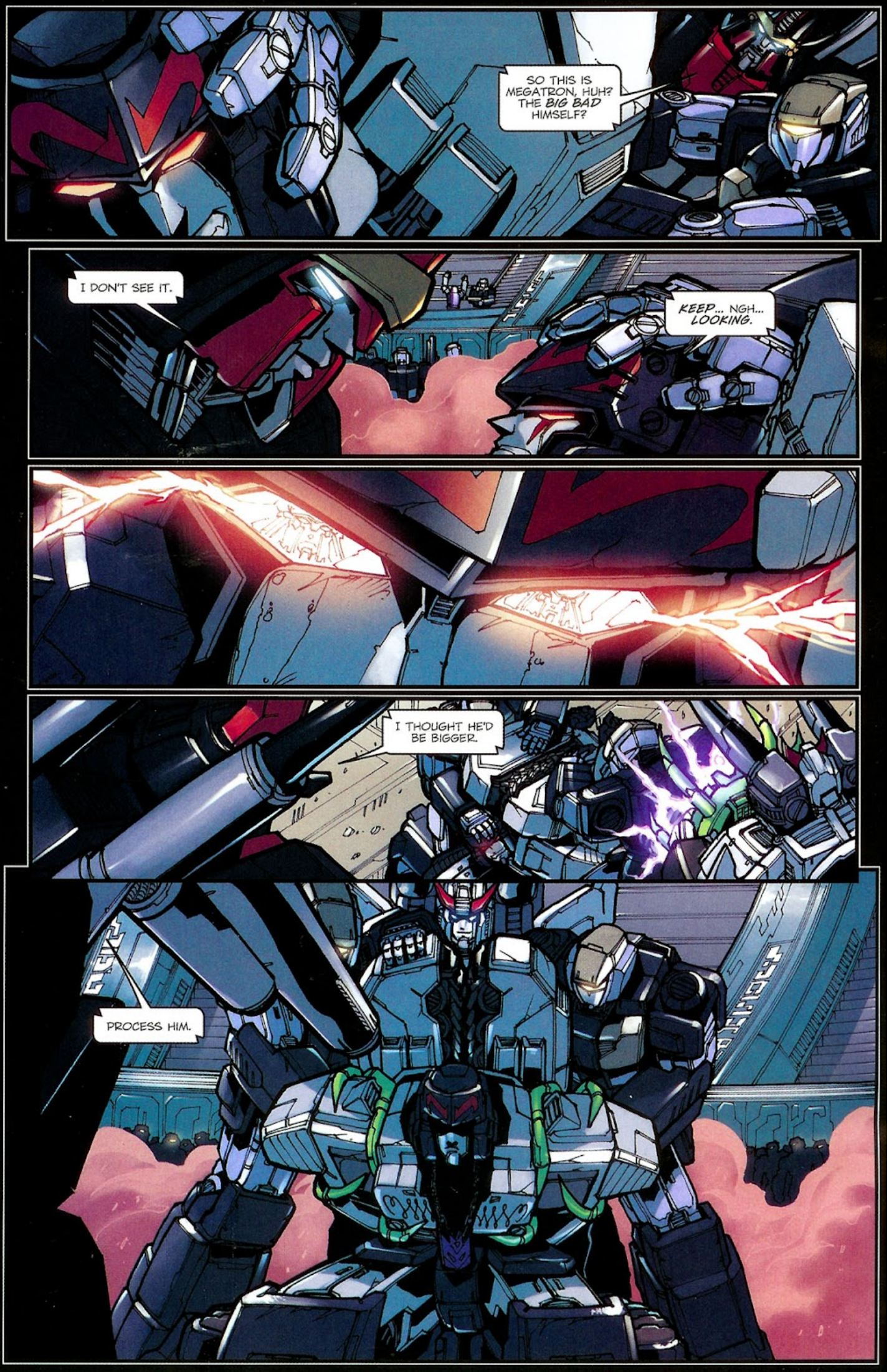

"...WE'RE SENDING A MESSAGE."


I WANT TO ASK EACH OF YOU A QUESTION—
—WHY ARE YOU HERE?
YOU COME FROM *TARN*—
—YOU COME FROM *VOS*.
ALTIHEX, *URAYA* AND *KALIS*.
WE GATHER IN *KAON*—
—AND SO WE BRING OUR MISERY *TOGETHER*—*AND WE FIGHT*.
WE ARE THE FORGOTTEN, *TRYING TO FORGET*.
FORGOTTEN—UNTIL YOU STAND WITH A BLADE IN ONE HAND, A THROAT IN THE OTHER. THEN YOU REMEMBER. YOU *FEEL IT*—
—YOU ARE *ALIVE!*
WE CAN WEAR BADGES, JOIN TEAMS, FIGHT AND KILL... THEN THE BADGE COMES OFF AND YOU *CRAWL HOME*.
ASSEMBLED HERE I SEE *STRENGTH. POWER. THE MOST DANGEROUS CYBERTRONIANS ALIVE.*
SO...
...WHAT IF THE BADGE *NEVER CAME OFF?*

WHAT IF OUR NEW ARENA WAS THE ENTIRE FACE OF THE PLANET?
WHAT IF THERE WAS ONE BADGE FOR ALL OF US? AND INSTEAD OF FIGHTING EACH OTHER, WE ATTACK THOSE THAT PUT US HERE... AND WE TAKE WHAT IS OURS!
WOULD YOU HAVE THE BEARINGS FOR THAT?
WOULD THEY?
LOOK AT THE FEAR. THE SELF-INTEREST. THE LOATHING FOR US... LOATHING FOR WHAT THEY HAVE CREATED. FEAR FOR WHAT WILL HAPPEN.
WE ARE WITHOUT FEAR. AND WE WILL MAKE OUR MARK UPON THIS WORLD.
WHY DON'T YOU ALL GET STARTED MAKING AN IMPRESSION?
ALL TEAMS. IF THEY SURRENDER, LET THEM GIVE UP.

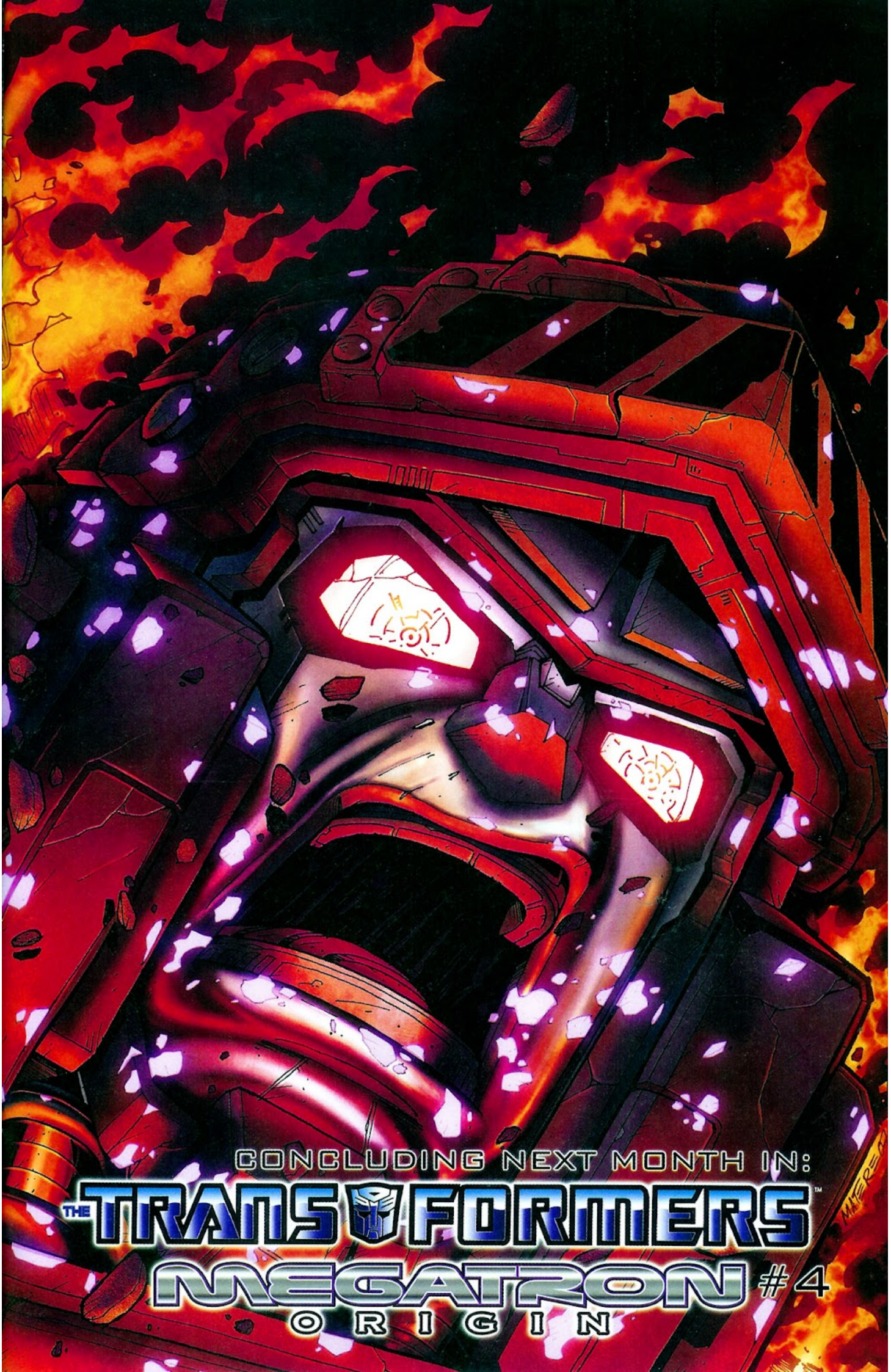

THE ONES THAT WANT A *FIGHT*, WELL, *WE AIM TO PLEASE.*
RED, BLUE, GOLD TEAMS—
—CONSIDER *THIS* YOUR *GO-CODE.*
MOVE IN!
YOU ARE ALL UNDER ARREST!
SECURITY! GET OUT OF HERE!
GET OUT—WHERE?! CAN'T SEE—
PRIME TO ALL UNITS—ACTIVATE OPTICS—
—AND KNOCK THEM DOWN!


INHIBITOR CLAWS AND RESTRAINT NETS—GO!
IF WE'RE NOT GETTING OUT OF HERE...
...NEITHER IS YOUR PRECIOUS SENATOR.
WE HAVE A RUNNER!
PILE IT—OOF!
TAKE HIM DOWN!
HNNNG—! I'LL GUT EVERY ONE OF YOU!
INHIBITOR CLAWS AND CLASS 3 RESTRAINTS! NOW!
HOLD HIM DOWN!
PIN HIM!
INHIBITOR CLAW! INHIBITOR CLAW!
I'LL KILL YOU!
HOLD HIM DOWN!
GET THAT THING ON HIM!
KILL...*NGH*...YOU!
SENTINEL PRIME, SIR?
WE HAVE HIM.


SO THIS IS MEGATRON, HUH? THE *BIG BAD* HIMSELF?
I DON'T SEE IT.
KEEP... NGH... LOOKING.
I THOUGHT HE'D BE BIGGER.
PROCESS HIM.

KAON CITY, AUTOBOT SECURITY HQ.
"BUT WE *PASSED* CAPACITY *THIRTY CYCLES AGO!*"
LOOK... PRISONER OVERFLOW DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE LAY DOWN TOOLS, IT MEANS GET *CREATIVE!*
PRIORITY ONES ARE SECURED. PRIORITY TWO NEEDS ANYTHING WITH A LOCK AND A DOOR. *CLEAR* IT, *SECURE* IT AND *FILL* IT!
TELL THEM SOMETHING.
DAMMIT, WE'RE ALL IN HERE BECAUSE OF YOU! TELL THEM SOMETHING!
"*THIS*" ONE?
SIR, THIS ARRIVED—SENATE DIRECTIVE. SAYS HERE THIS ONE *WALKS AWAY.*
PFFF... FINE. HE CAN WALK, ROLL OR SLIDE OUT ON A TRAIL OF GREASE. I DON'T CARE.
BEAT IT.

ZERO TOLERANCE. ANY RESISTANCE AND YOU CRACK DOWN IMMEDIATELY. SHOCK RESTRAINTS WILL IMMOBILISE THEM CELL BY CELL.
HEY... HEY!
WHAT?
YOU NEED TO LISTEN... WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
YOU!
KILL HIM!
AAAHH!
GET ME OUT!
TAKE ME TO THE SENATE. I HAVE SOMETHING THAT GUARANTEES THEIR FUTURE—AND MINE.
BOSS...
...WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM?
EVERYTHING.
TO BE CONTINUED.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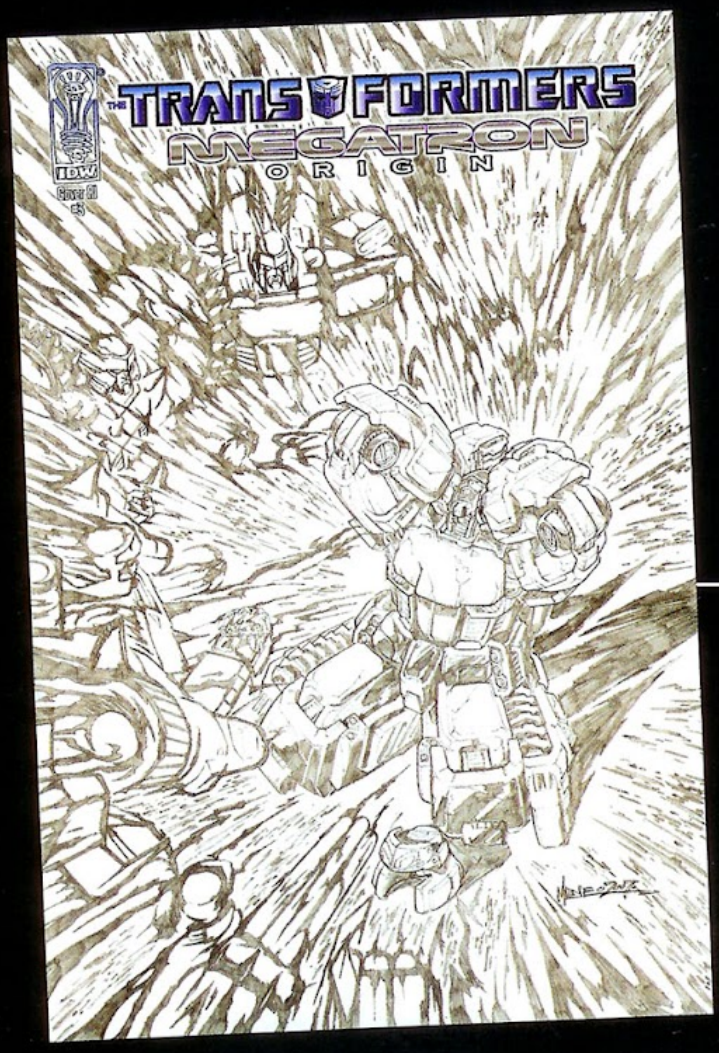

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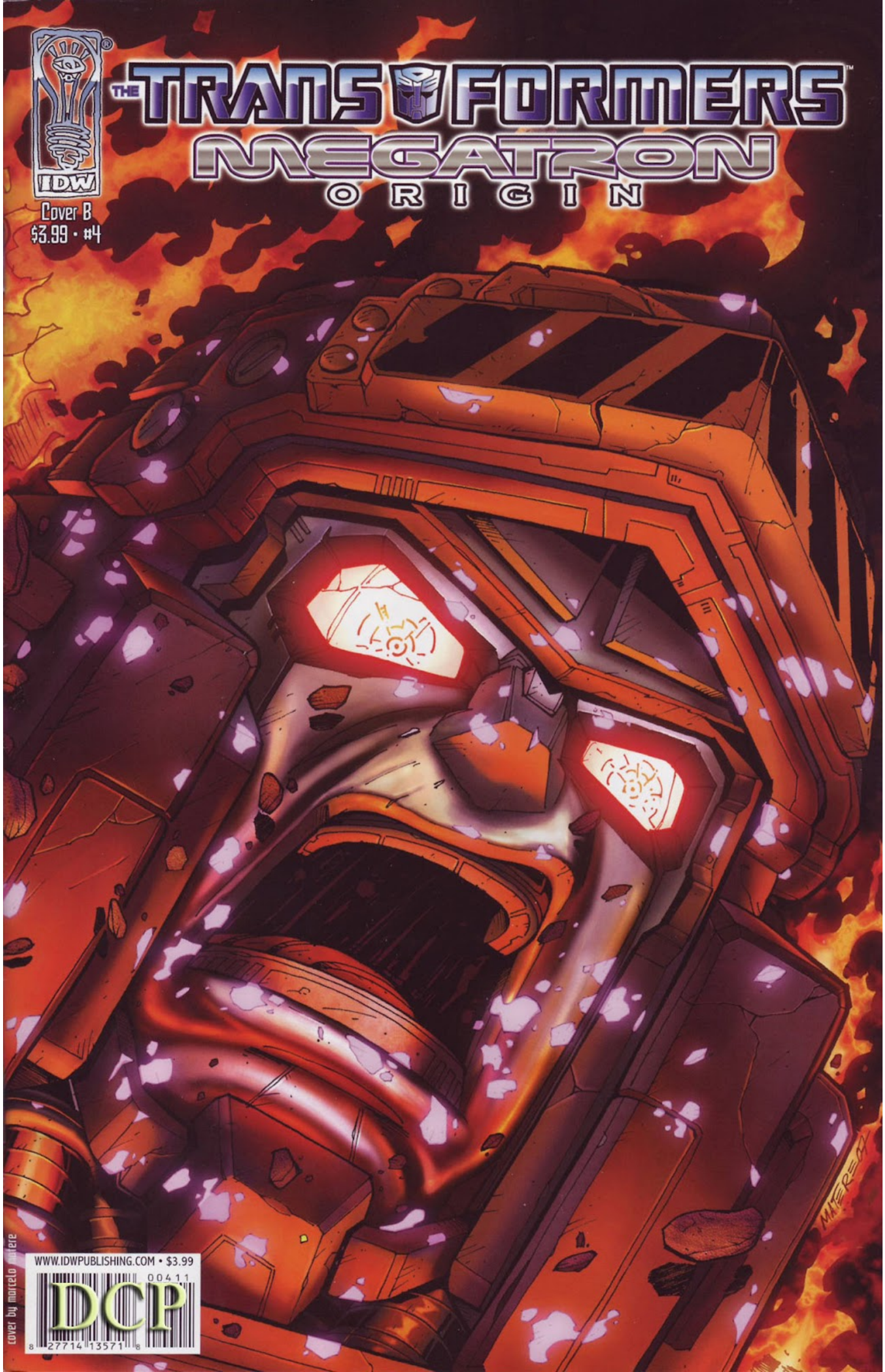
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Precursor

Outlawed. Hunted. Seized. A successful mass arrest led by SENTINEL PRIME deals a single staggering blow to the underground gladiatorial games. MEGATRON himself, a complement of gladiators and a legion of their fans now fill the holding facilities to the bursting point. From one of those cells, STARSCREAM risks his life to beg an audience with the Kaon Council. He has something to say to them—something that could change everything...

THE TRANSFORMERS: MEGATRON ORIGIN

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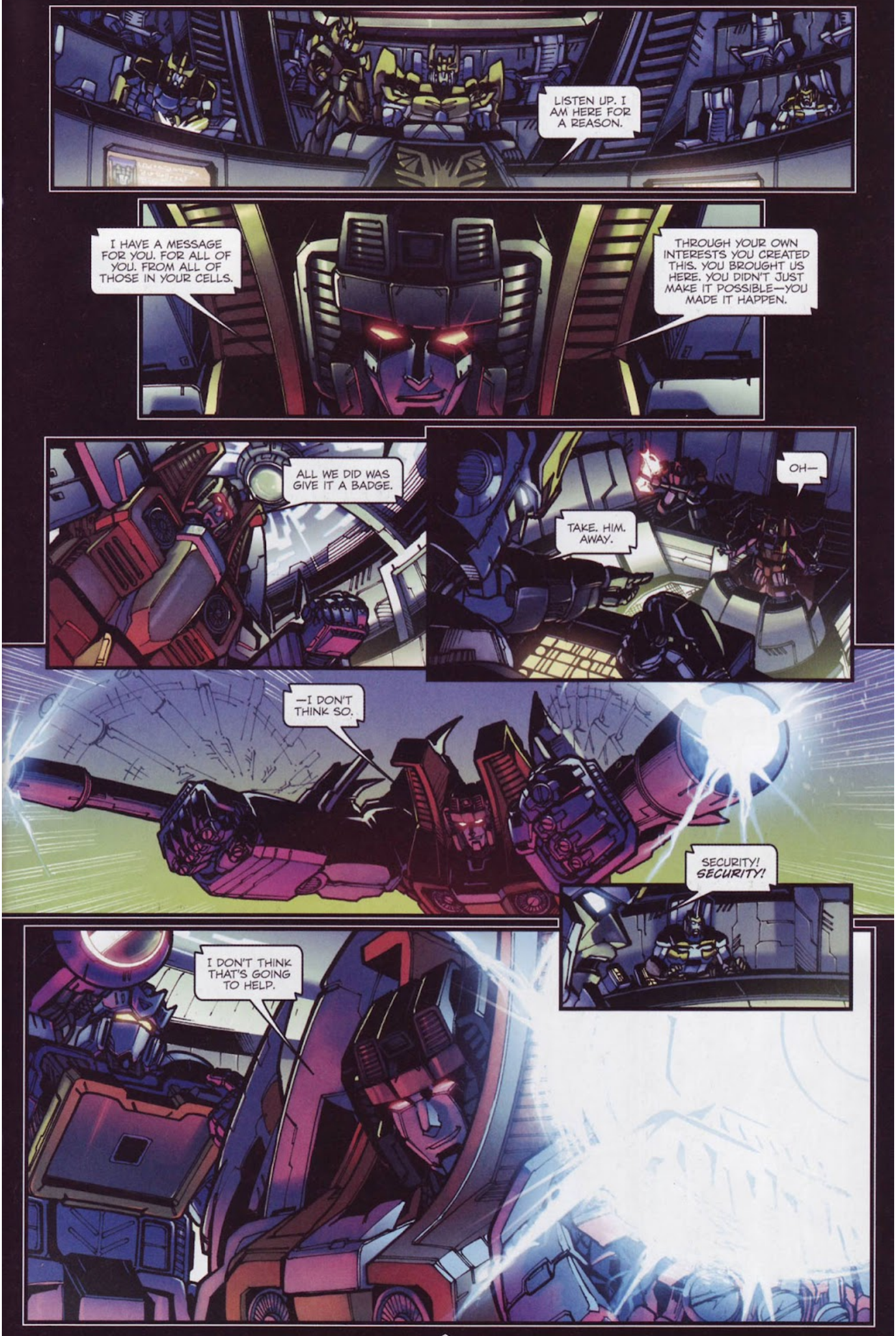
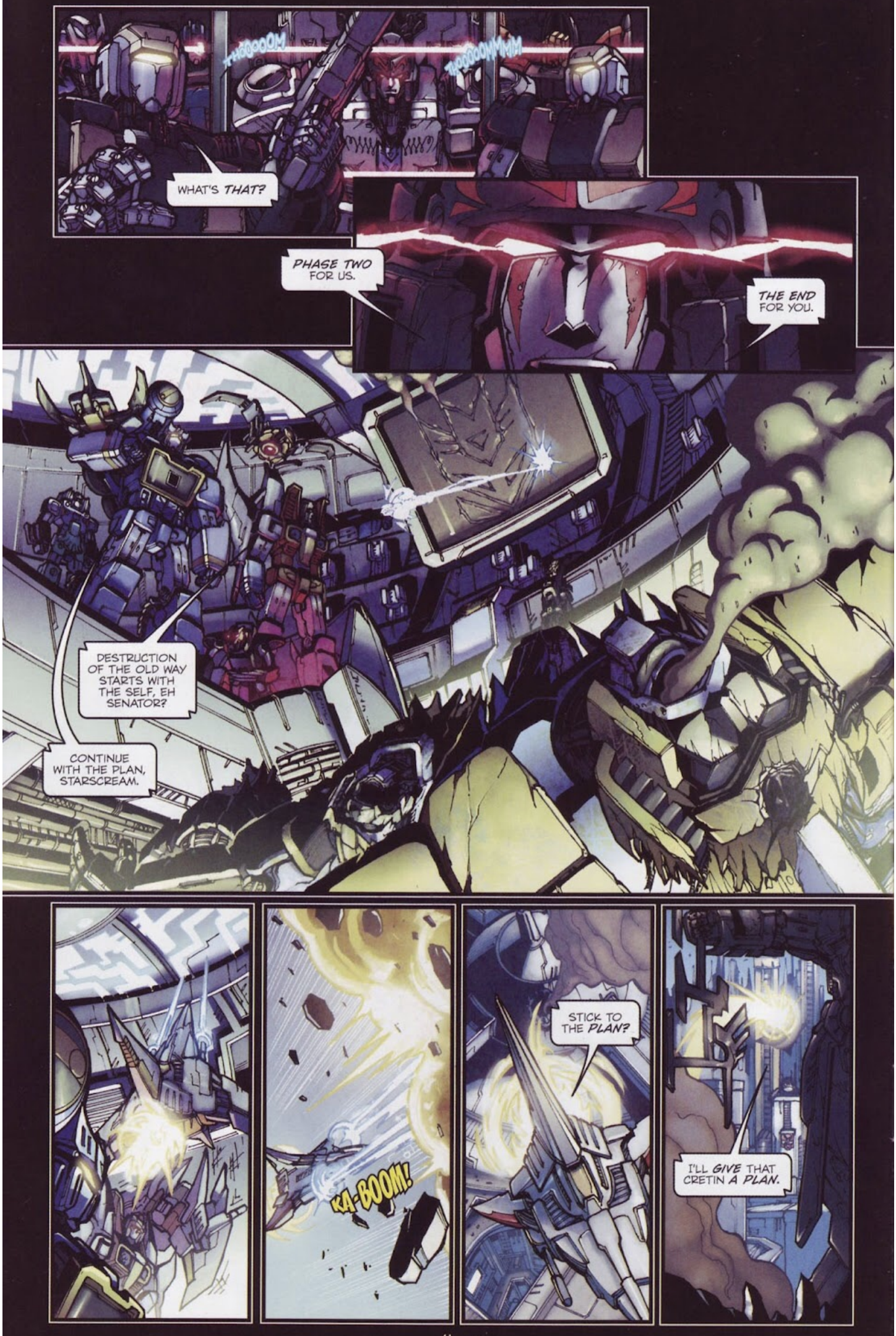
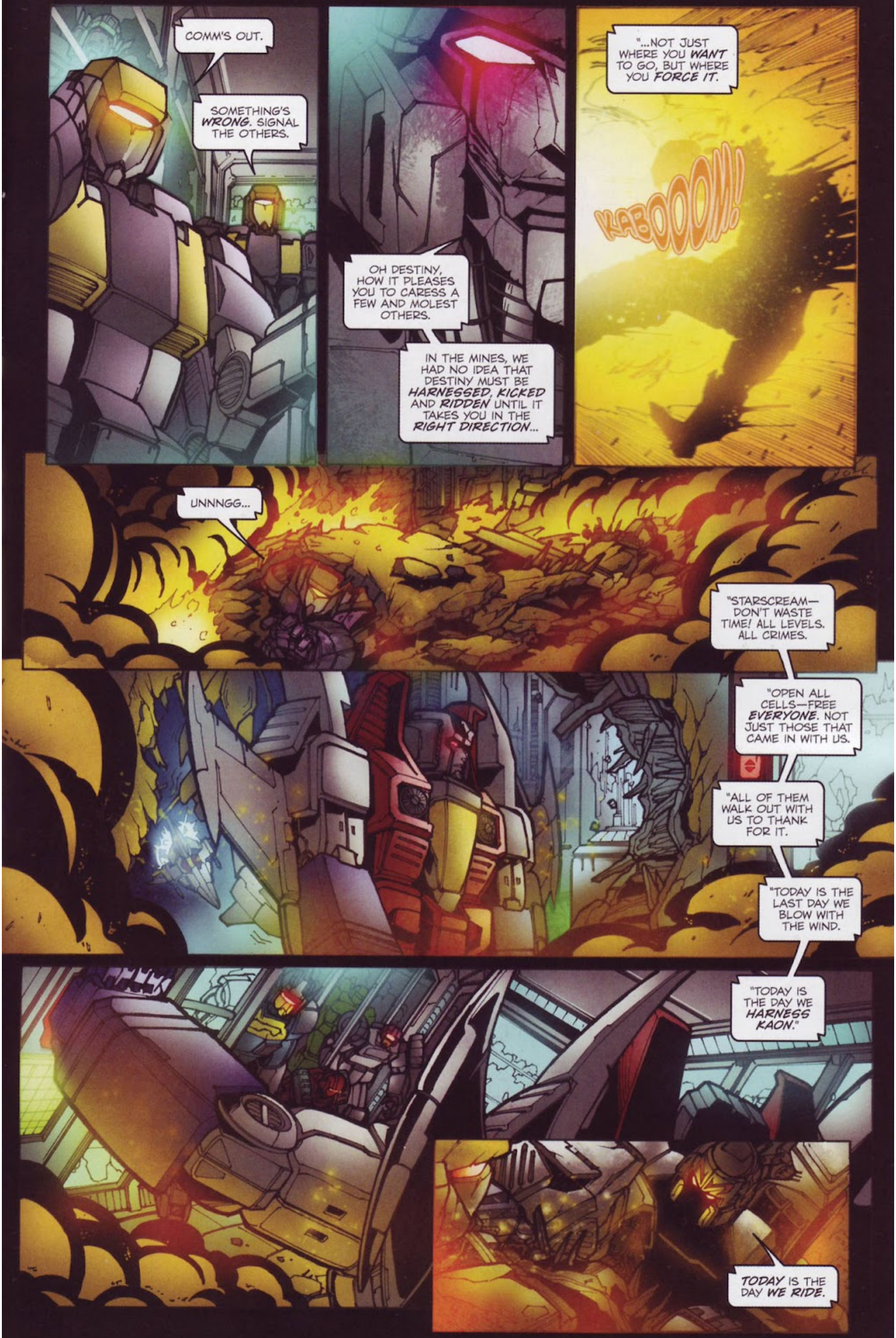
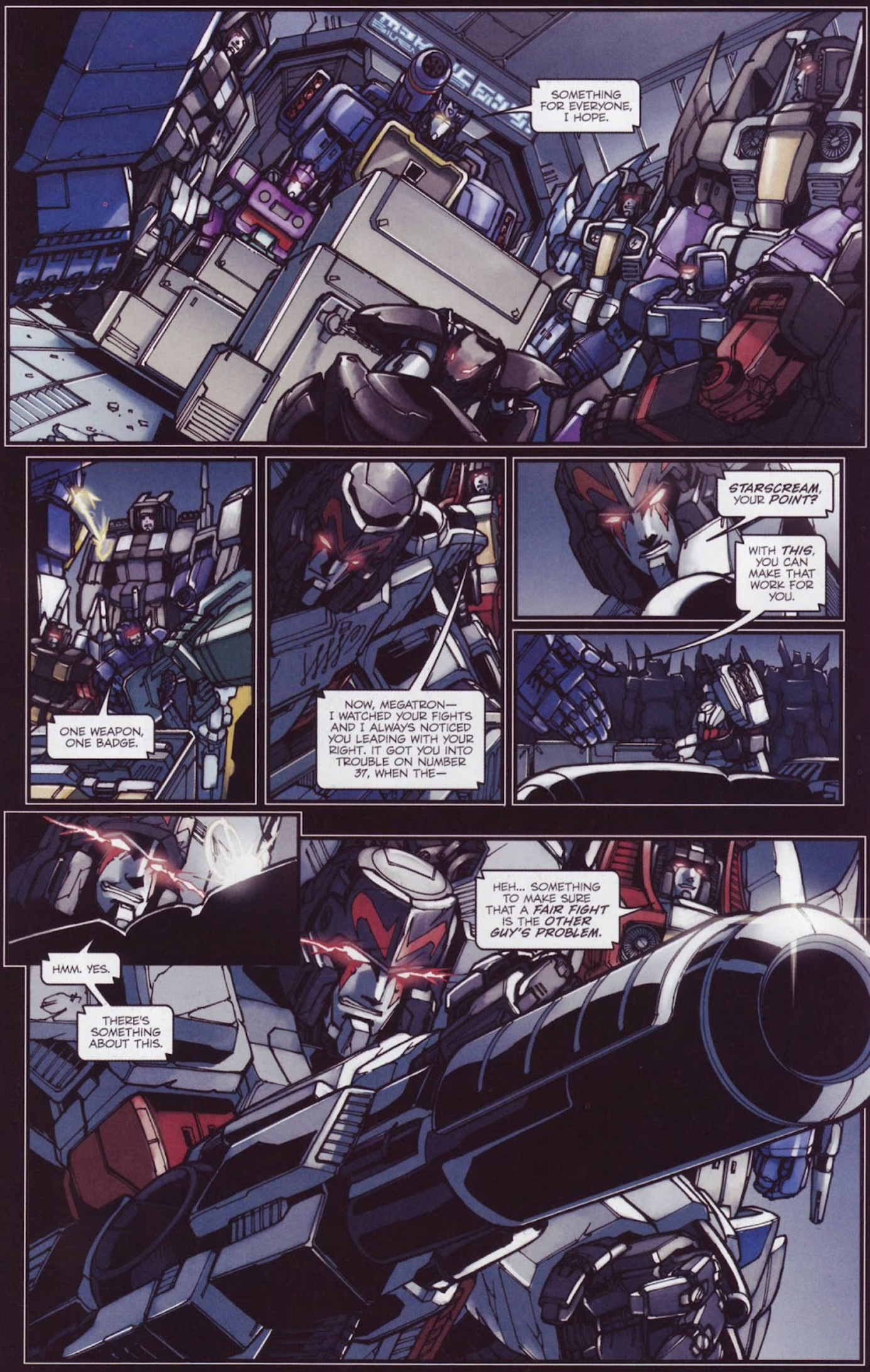
KAON SECURITY HEADQUARTERS.
PRISON FACILITIES.
300% CAPACITY.
NICE FRIENDS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM.
THEY'RE NOT YOUR FRIENDS ANYMORE.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY TO THE COUNCIL.

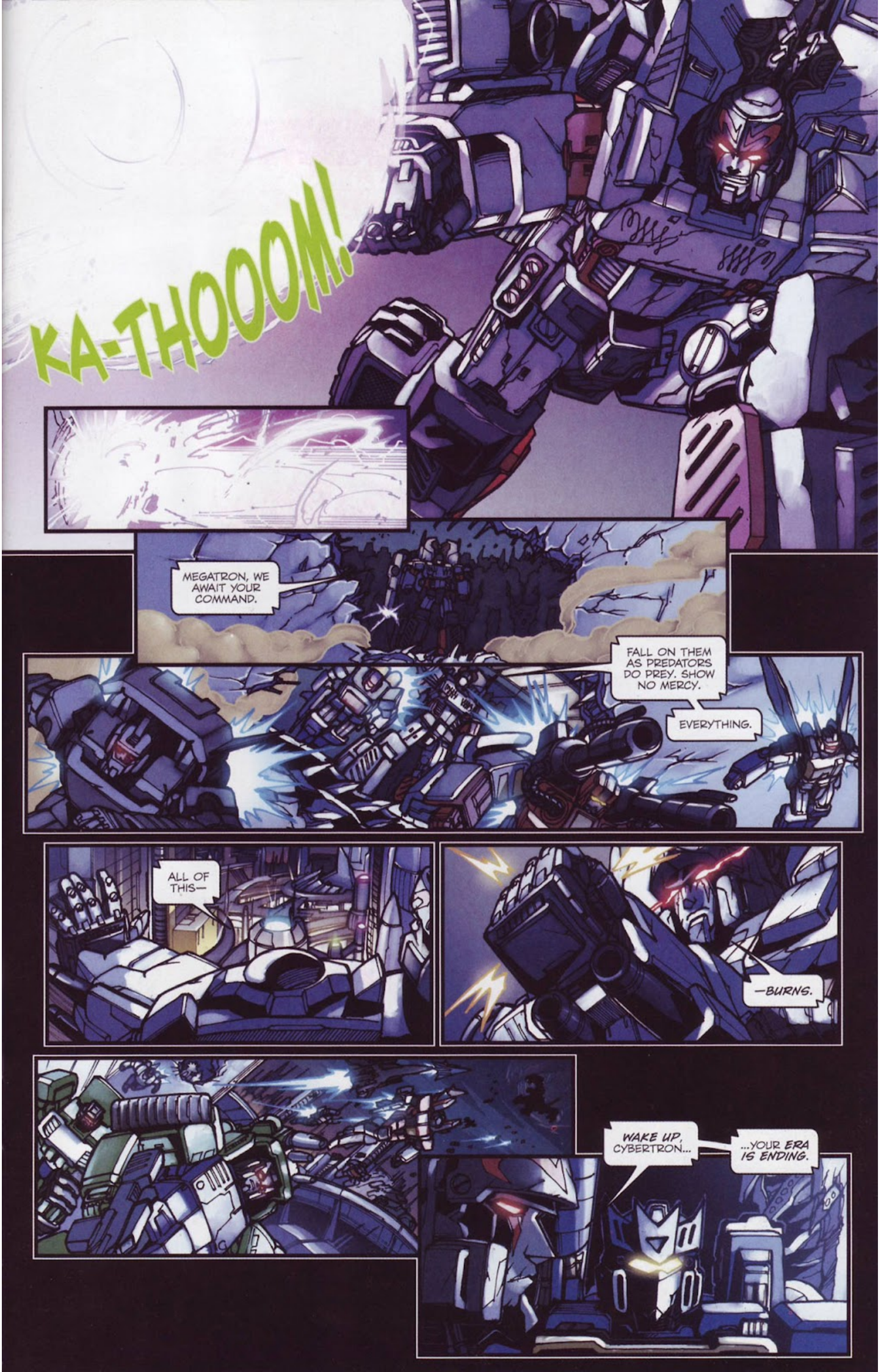
LET THIS SPECIAL HEARING OF THE KAON COUNCIL BE MARKED AS IN COMMENCEMENT. PRISONER STARSCREAM, I AM REQUIRED TO LIST YOUR CHARGES AS FOLLOWS...
KAON COUNCIL HEARING. EMERGENCY SESSION.
...ASSAULT, MURDER, ARMED ROBBERY, DESTRUCTION OF STATE PROPERTY, INCITING CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, EXTORTION, KIDNAPPING, RECEIVING AND SELLING STOLEN GOODS, PASSING COUNTERFEIT FUNDS...
...FIRING UPON A STATE SENATOR, MULTIPLE COUNTS OF ATTACKS ON STATE OFFICERS AND STATE PROPERTY, SUPPLYING KNOWN CRIMINALS WITH ILLEGAL WEAPONRY, VEHICLE THEFT, AND MISREPRESENTING YOURSELF AS A STATE OFFICIAL.
HEH.
NOBODY'S PERFECT.
PRISONER, YOU RISK MUCH COMING TO US.
WHY DID THE PRISONER SEEK AN EARLY HEARING?
I WAS EAGER TO SEE HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVED.
NICE PLACE.
THIS CHAIR HOLDS THE PRISONER IN CONTEMPT! I SUGGEST A MOVEMENT TO EXPEL THE PRISONER AND RETURN HIM TO CONFINEMENT—
HAH, DO YOUR *EMPTY CHAIRS* ALSO HOLD ME IN CONTEMPT?


LISTEN UP. I AM HERE FOR A REASON.
I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU. FOR ALL OF YOU. FROM ALL OF THOSE IN YOUR CELLS.
THROUGH YOUR OWN INTERESTS YOU CREATED THIS. YOU BROUGHT US HERE. YOU DIDN'T JUST MAKE IT POSSIBLE—YOU MADE IT HAPPEN.
ALL WE DID WAS GIVE IT A BADGE.
OH—
TAKE. HIM. AWAY.
—I DON'T THINK SO.
SECURITY! SECURITY!
I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO HELP.


THOOOOM
THOOOOMMMM
WHAT'S THAT?
PHASE TWO FOR US.
THE END FOR YOU.
DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD WAY STARTS WITH THE SELF, EH SENATOR?
CONTINUE WITH THE PLAN, STARSCREAM.
KA-BOOM!
STICK TO THE PLAN?
I'LL GIVE THAT CRETIN A PLAN.

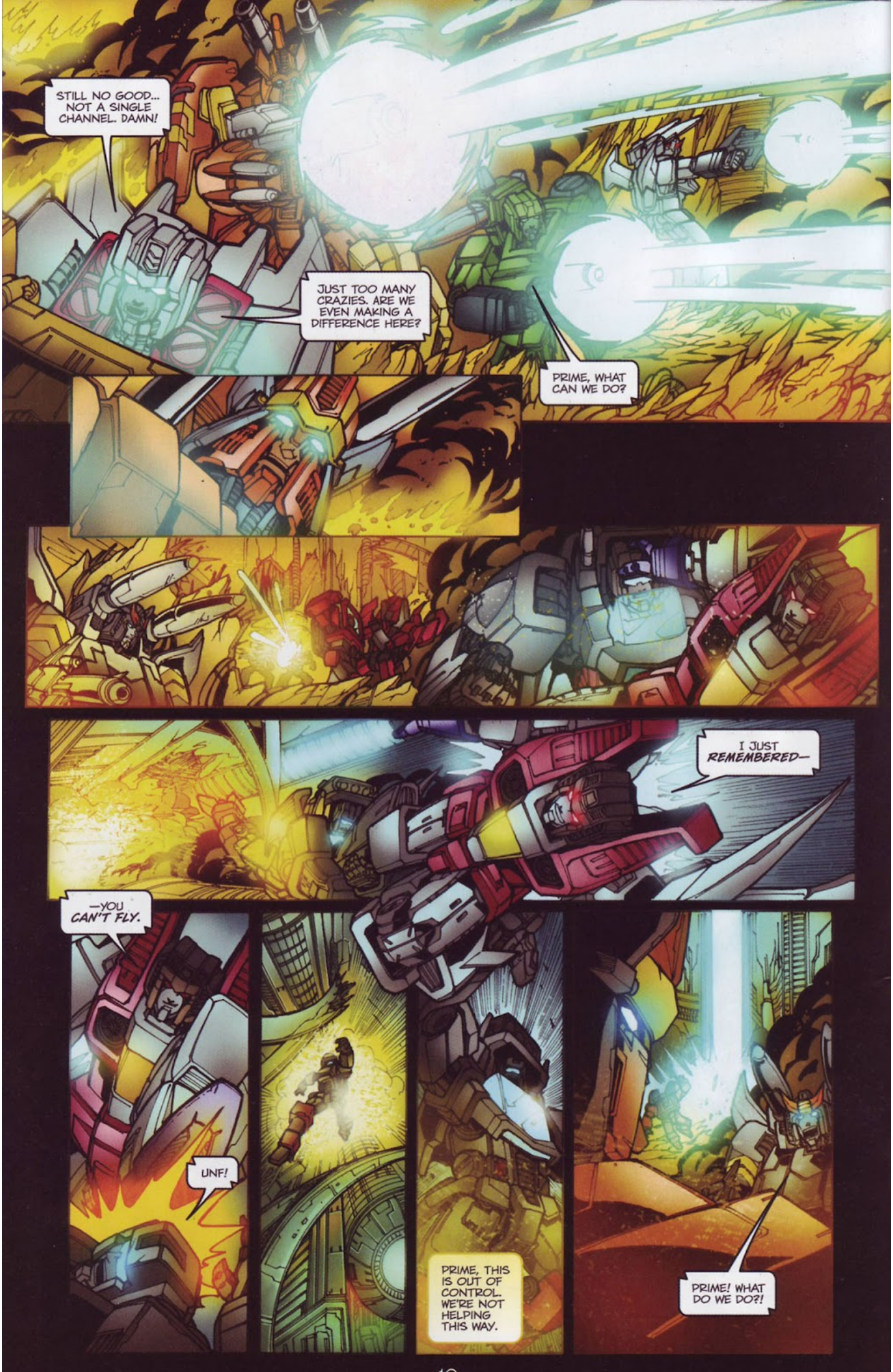

COMM'S OUT.
SOMETHING'S WRONG. SIGNAL THE OTHERS.
OH DESTINY, HOW IT PLEASES YOU TO CARESS A FEW AND MOLEST OTHERS.
IN THE MINES, WE HAD NO IDEA THAT DESTINY MUST BE HARNESSED, KICKED AND RIDDEN UNTIL IT TAKES YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION...
"...NOT JUST WHERE YOU WANT TO GO, BUT WHERE YOU FORCE IT.
KABOOOM!!
UNNNGG...
"STARSCREAM—DON'T WASTE TIME! ALL LEVELS. ALL CRIMES.
"OPEN ALL CELLS—FREE EVERYONE. NOT JUST THOSE THAT CAME IN WITH US.
"ALL OF THEM WALK OUT WITH US TO THANK FOR IT.
"TODAY IS THE LAST DAY WE BLOW WITH THE WIND.
"TODAY IS THE DAY WE HARNESS KAON."
TODAY IS THE DAY WE RIDE.

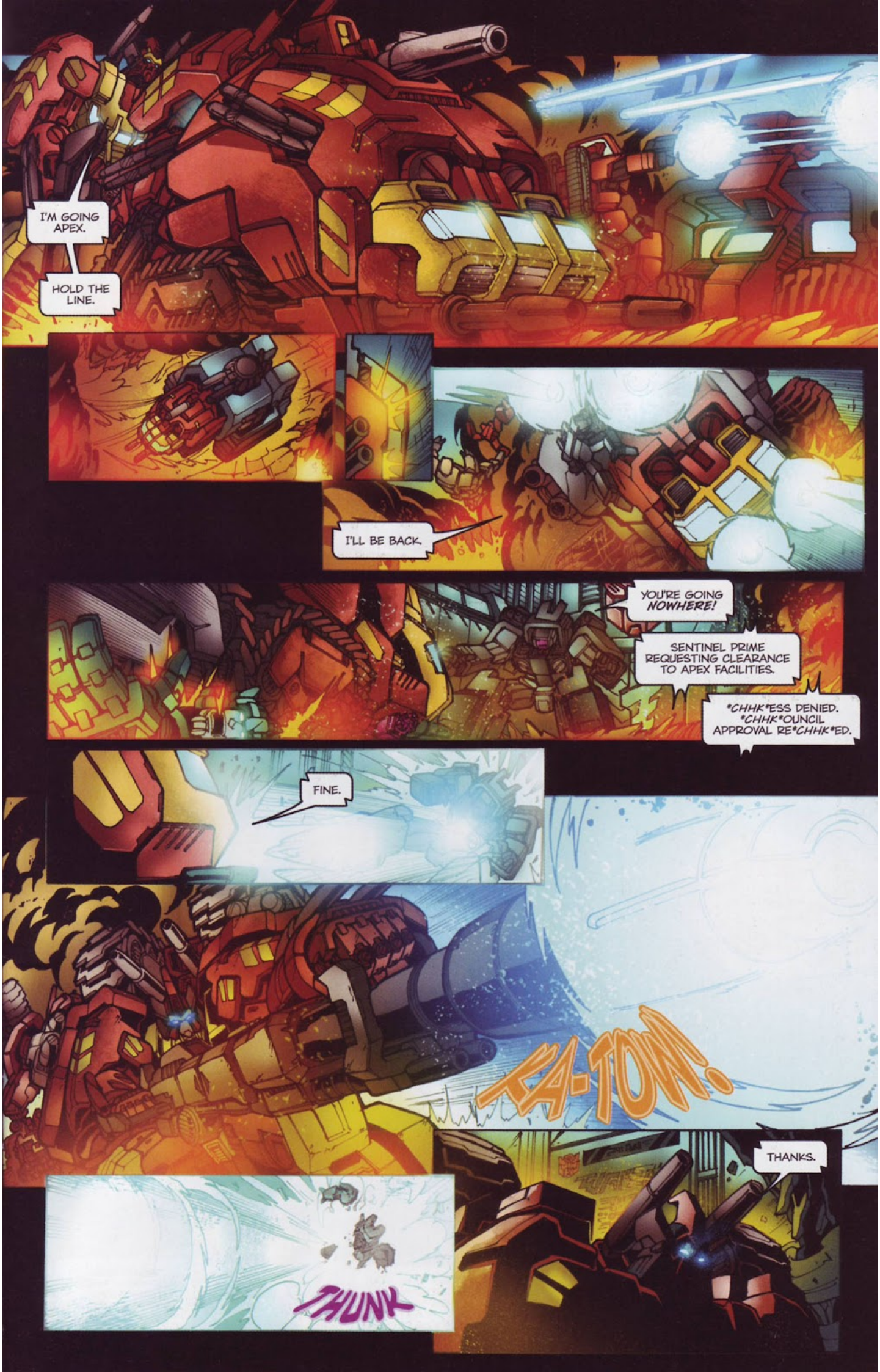

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, I HOPE.
ONE WEAPON, ONE BADGE.
NOW, MEGATRON— I WATCHED YOUR FIGHTS AND I ALWAYS NOTICED YOU LEADING WITH YOUR RIGHT. IT GOT YOU INTO TROUBLE ON NUMBER 37, WHEN THE—
STARSCREAM, YOUR POINT?
WITH THIS, YOU CAN MAKE THAT WORK FOR YOU.
HMM. YES.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.
HEH... SOMETHING TO MAKE SURE THAT A FAIR FIGHT IS THE OTHER GUY'S PROBLEM.


KA-THOOOM!
MEGATRON, WE AWAIT YOUR COMMAND.
FALL ON THEM AS PREDATORS DO PREY. SHOW NO MERCY.
EVERYTHING.
ALL OF THIS—
—BURNS.
WAKE UP, CYBERTRON...
...YOUR ERA IS ENDING.

AND THEN I SAID, INVESTMENT PROPERTY— HOW BORING!
HAHAHAH!
YOU HEARD HIM.
I... UH...
...I'M THINKING THAT—
DON'T THINK.
JUST DO IT.
KEE-TEE-TEE-TEOW!
PRIMUS—!
LIFEBOATS— WHERE ARE THE LIFE—
CAN'T GET IT UNDER CONTROL!
WHERE'S THAT SUPPORT?!
IT'S LIKE ALL THE COMM CHANNELS ARE DOWN. TOTALLY BLO—

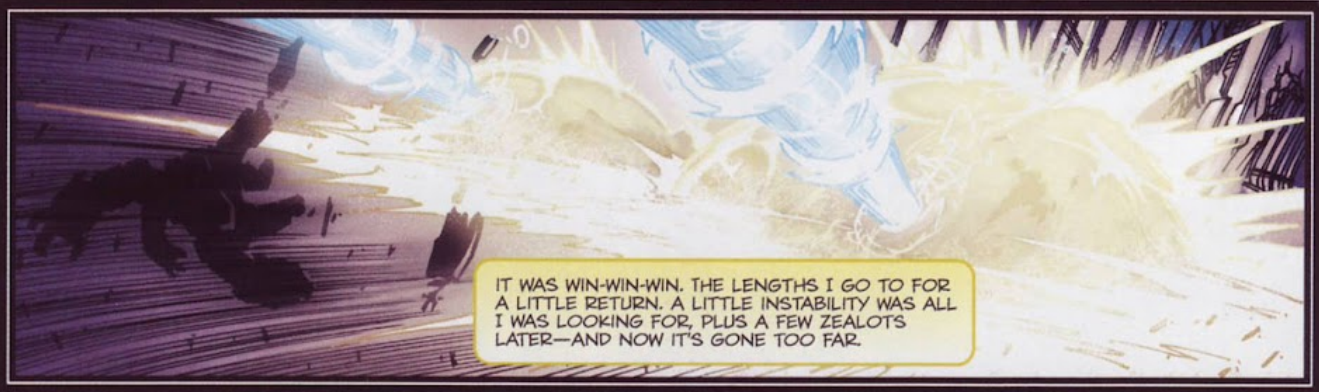
—AW SCRAP.


STILL NO GOOD... NOT A SINGLE CHANNEL. DAMN!
JUST TOO MANY CRAZIES. ARE WE EVEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE HERE?
PRIME, WHAT CAN WE DO?
I JUST REMEMBERED—
—YOU CAN'T FLY.
UNF!
PRIME, THIS IS OUT OF CONTROL. WE'RE NOT HELPING THIS WAY.
PRIME! WHAT DO WE DO?!


I'M GOING APEX.
HOLD THE LINE.
I'LL BE BACK.
YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE!
SENTINEL PRIME REQUESTING CLEARANCE TO APEX FACILITIES.
*CHHK*ESS DENIED. *CHHK*OUNCIL APPROVAL RE*CHHK*ED.
FINE.
KA-TOW!
THANKS.
THUNK

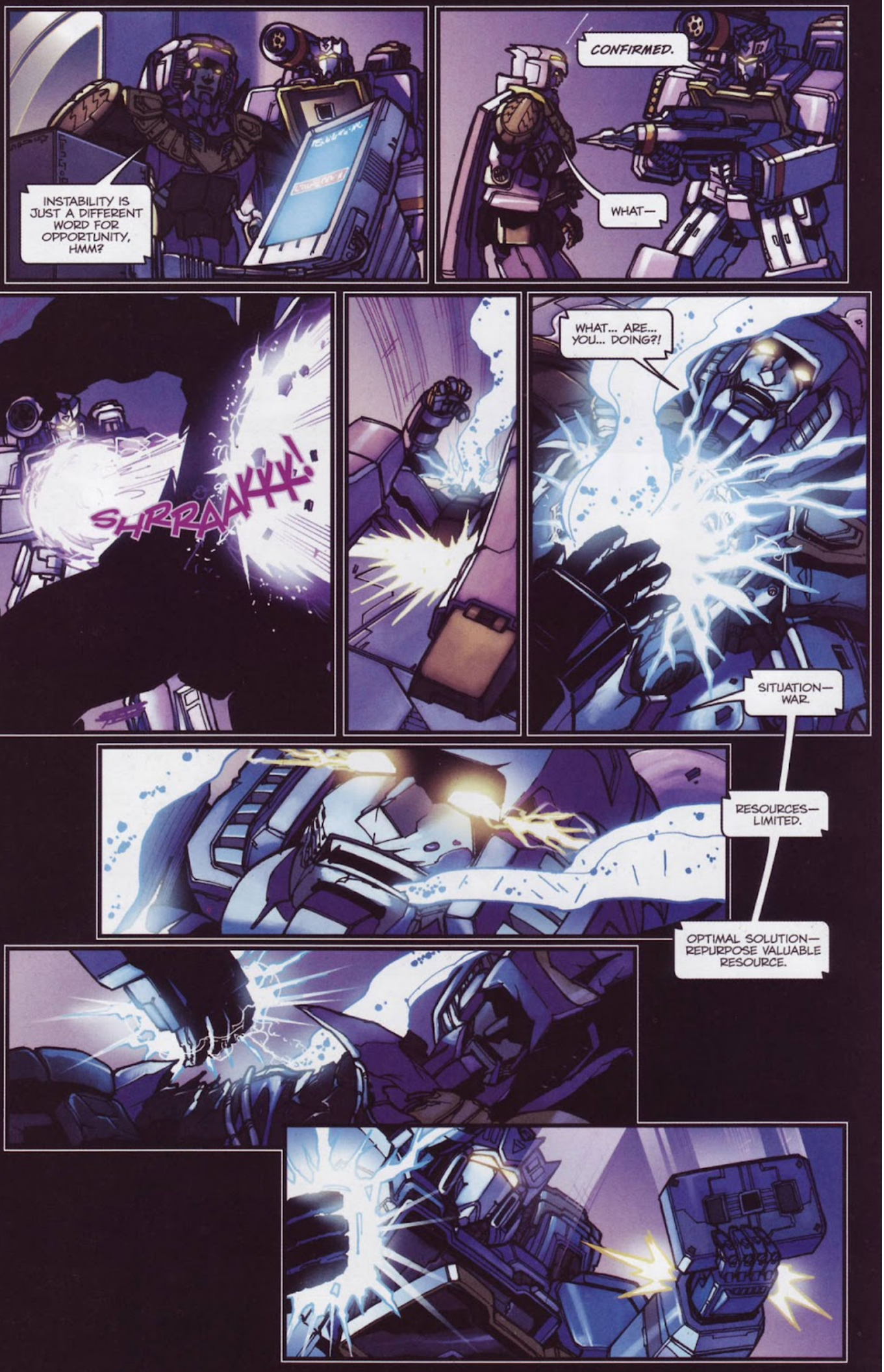
WHAT HAPPENED?
A MINOR DISAGREEMENT.
I FELT THE TIMING WAS PERFECT FOR ME TO REASSIGN MYSELF TO OUR CAPITAL OF IACON.
THEY FELT I SHOULDN'T BE PERFORMING A LAST-MINUTE REALLOCATION OF THE CITY FUNDING OR BACKING UP THEIR PRECIOUS CITY-STATE DATA ARCHIVES TO THIS DATA CUBE.
WE SETTLED.
POLITICS. THESE THINGS HAPPEN.
AND WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? IRONICALLY, YOU'VE BEEN EXTREMELY HARD TO REACH FOR THE LAST FEW CYCLES.
GLADIATOR ASSIGNMENT—INITIAL COMMITMENT ESTIMATES INADEQUATE.

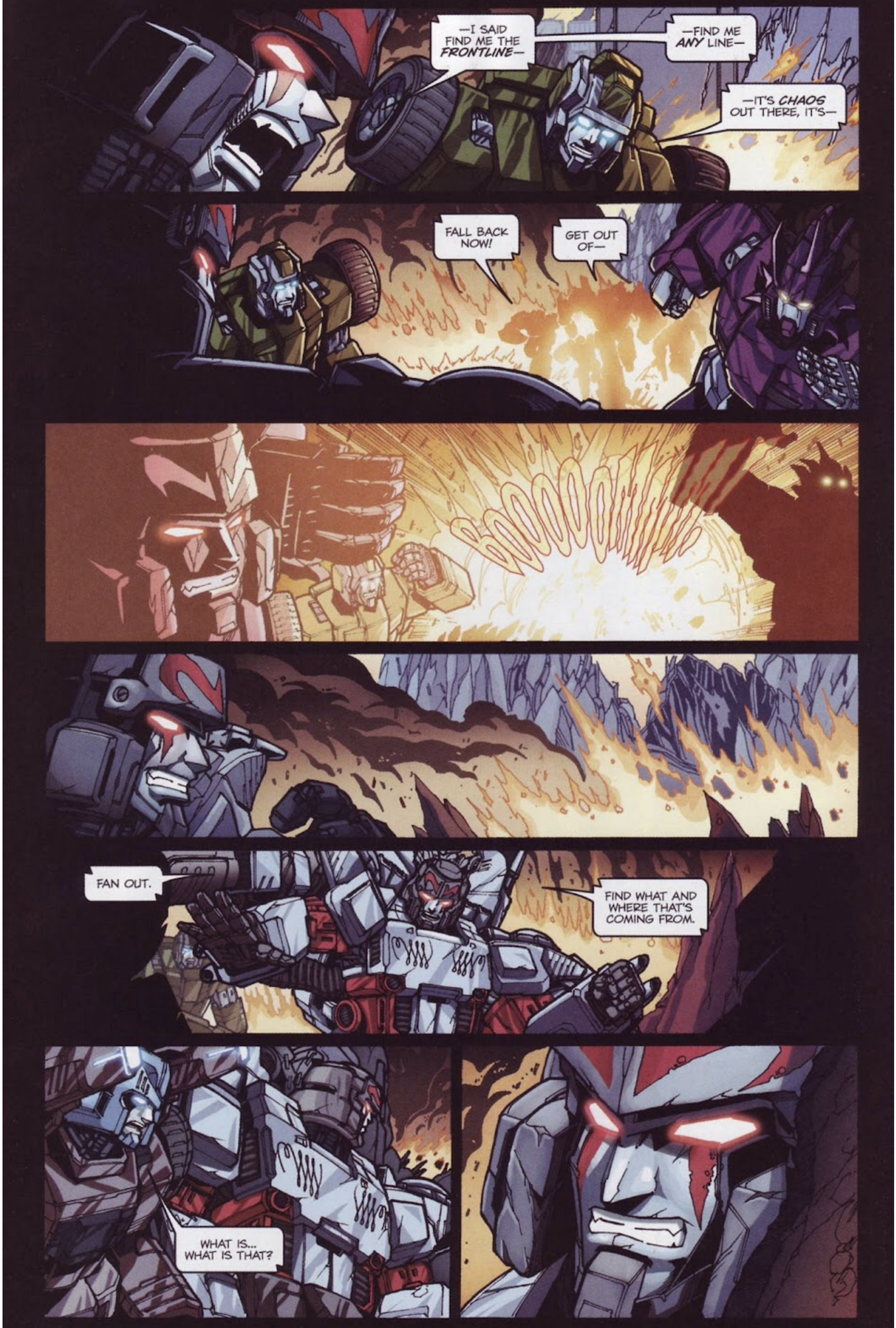
YOU KNOW, INSTIGATING THE MINING AUTOMATION WAS A BRILLIANT DOVETAIL BETWEEN INSTABILITY, ARMS PRODUCTION AND A NICE LITTLE CUT OF FUTURE MINING PROFITS.

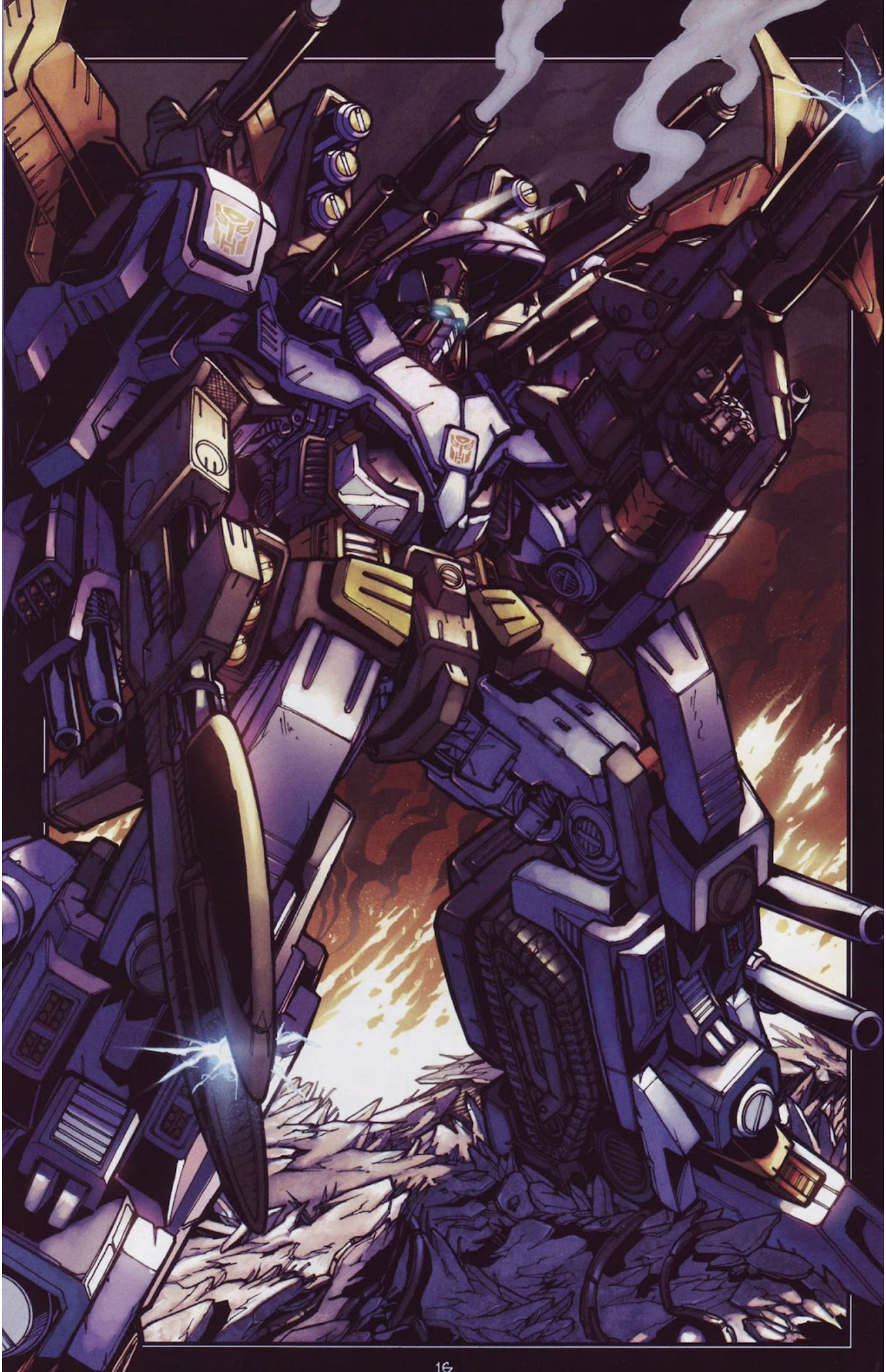

IT WAS WIN-WIN-WIN. THE LENGTHS I GO TO FOR A LITTLE RETURN. A LITTLE INSTABILITY WAS ALL I WAS LOOKING FOR, PLUS A FEW ZEALOTS LATER—AND NOW IT'S GONE TOO FAR.

WITH WHAT I'LL HAVE DOWNLOADED INTO THIS CUBE AND THE CONTACTS I'LL HAVE BEGGING FOR MY TIME IN IACON, I THINK MY IMMINENT RELOCATION MAY WORK OUT TO LESS THAN A CHORE.

TAKE IT FROM ME, WHEN I SAW THIS TROUBLE BREWING IN KAON—
—I KNEW THINGS WERE GOING TO BE JUST FINE!

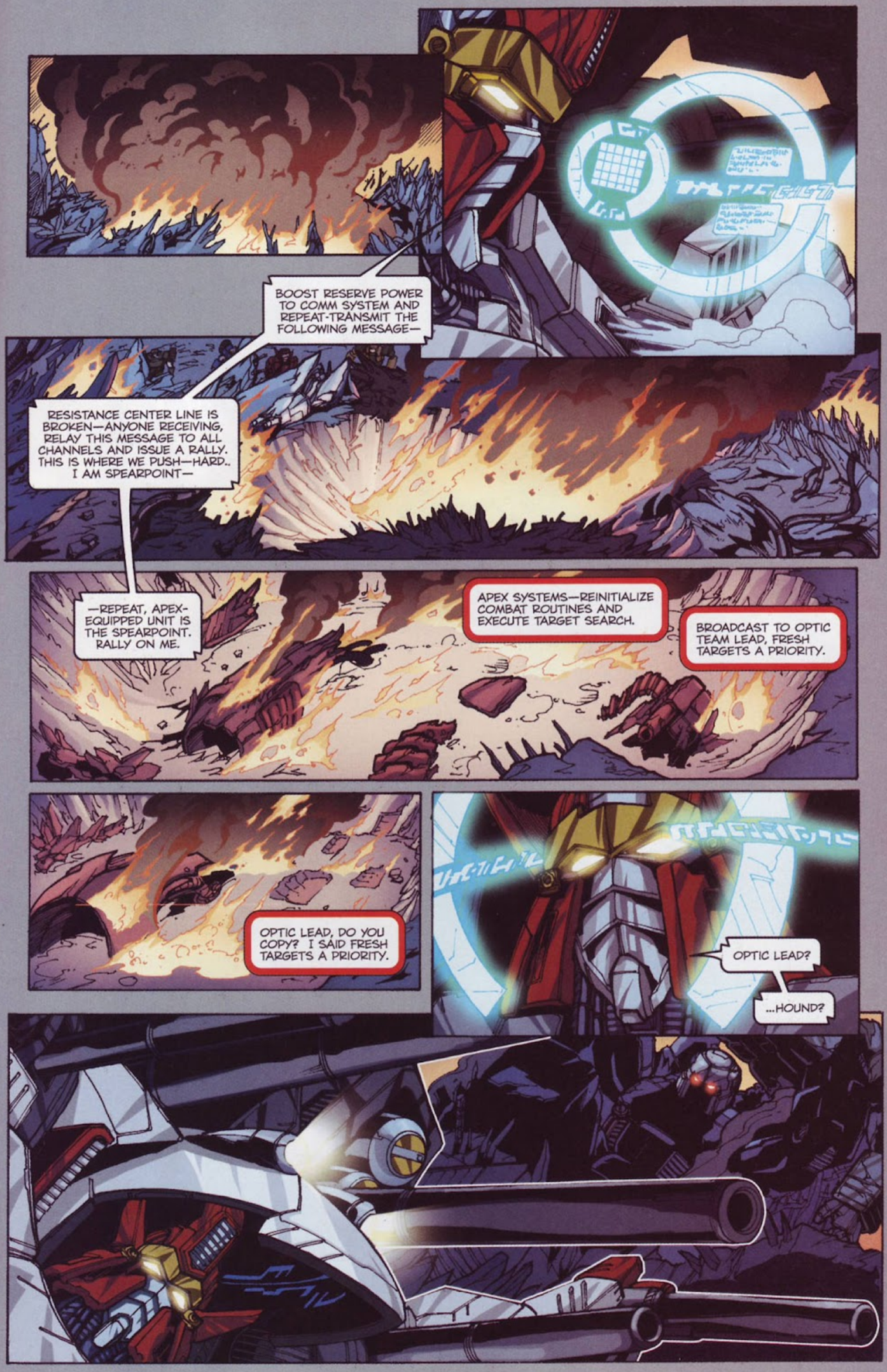

INSTABILITY IS JUST A DIFFERENT WORD FOR OPPORTUNITY, HMM?
CONFIRMED.
WHAT—
SHRRAAKK!
WHAT... ARE... YOU... DOING?!
SITUATION— WAR.
RESOURCES— LIMITED.
OPTIMAL SOLUTION— REPURPOSE VALUABLE RESOURCE.


—I SAID FIND ME THE FRONTLINE—
—FIND ME ANY LINE—
—IT'S CHAOS OUT THERE, IT'S—
FALL BACK NOW!
GET OUT OF—
BOOOOOM
FAN OUT.
FIND WHAT AND WHERE THAT'S COMING FROM.
WHAT IS... WHAT IS THAT?



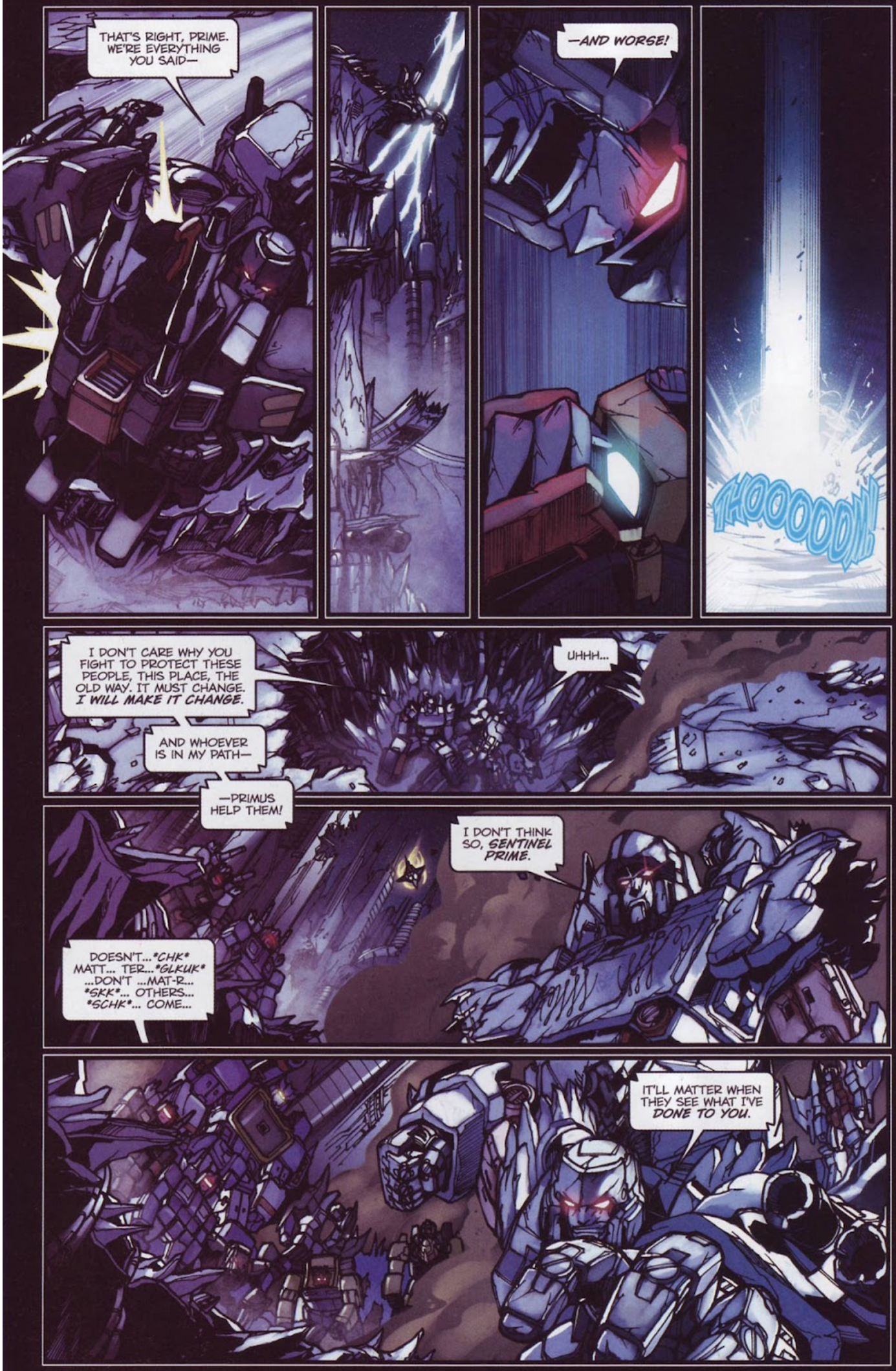
CHHK BIG CHIEF, THIS *CHHK* OPTIC SCOUT. *CHHK* WE HAVE *CHHK* NEW PLAYMATE FOR YOU, OV-*CHHK*
AWAITING UPLOAD, OPTIC.
COME OUT, PRIME!
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! COME OUT AND FIGHT!
FACE ME LIKE A GLADIATOR!

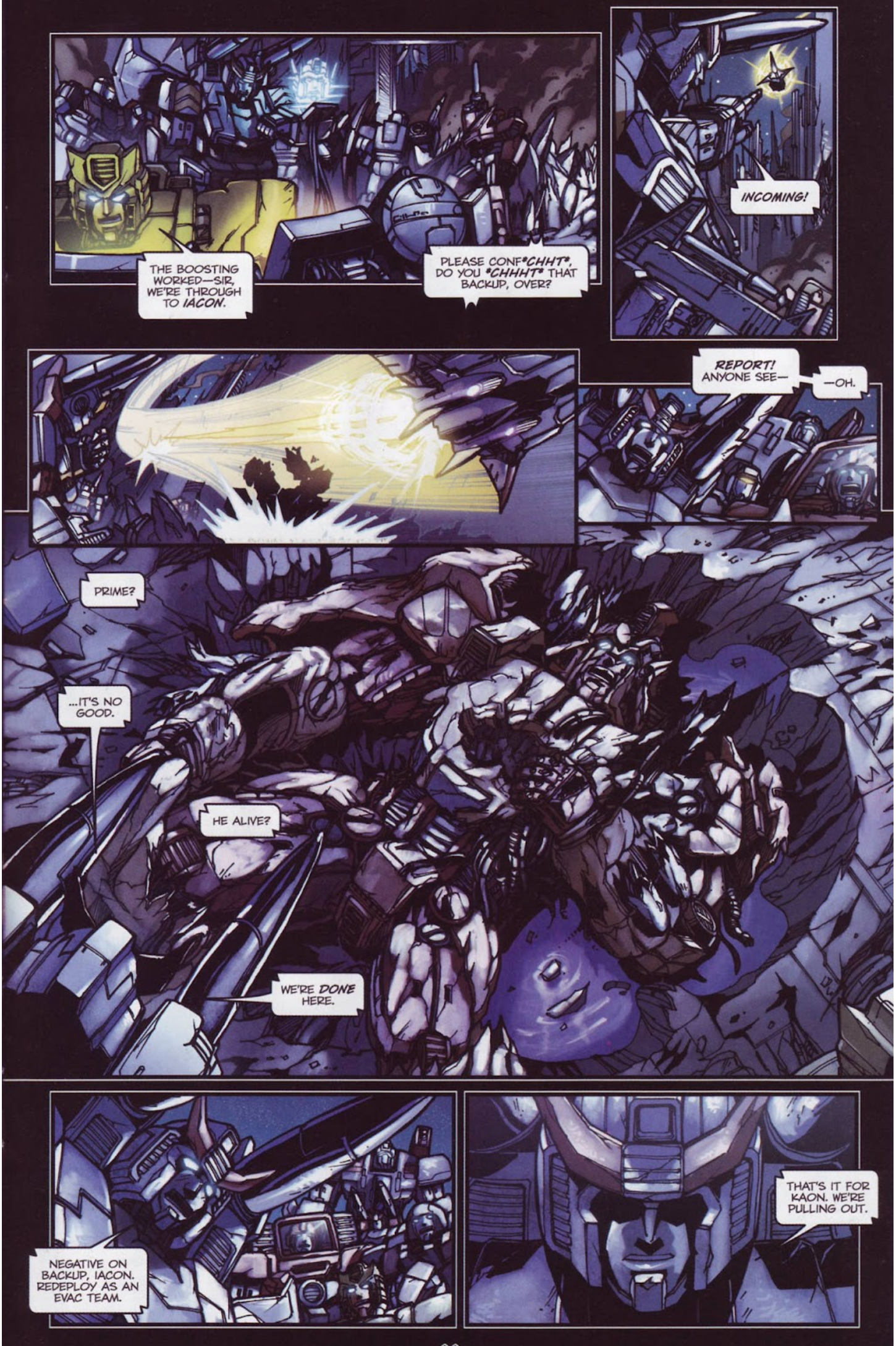
SCCCHRRRACK!
SCCCHRRRACK!
BOOOOOM!


BOOST RESERVE POWER TO COMM SYSTEM AND REPEAT-TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE—
RESISTANCE CENTER LINE IS BROKEN—ANYONE RECEIVING, RELAY THIS MESSAGE TO ALL CHANNELS AND ISSUE A RALLY. THIS IS WHERE WE PUSH—HARD.. I AM SPEARPOINT—
—REPEAT, APEX-EQUIPPED UNIT IS THE SPEARPOINT. RALLY ON ME.
APEX SYSTEMS—REINITIALIZE COMBAT ROUTINES AND EXECUTE TARGET SEARCH.
BROADCAST TO OPTIC TEAM LEAD, FRESH TARGETS A PRIORITY.
OPTIC LEAD, DO YOU COPY? I SAID FRESH TARGETS A PRIORITY.
OPTIC LEAD?
...HOUND?

RASSHAH!
PRRIIIIME!
GRAHHH!
I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT WE ONLY GAIN WISDOM THROUGH SUFFERING—
—AND TONIGHT I INTEND TO MAKE YOU VERY WISE.
IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE THINGS SO MUCH, MEGATRON— WHY DON'T YOU START WITH YOURSELF?
CHANGE? OH, HOW I'VE CHANGED.
THE JOURNEY I'VE BEEN ON... I SEE THROUGH WISER OPTICS NOW. WISE ENOUGH TO SEE THAT THIS IS THE TWILIGHT OF YOUR WAYS—

—AND THE DAWN OF MINE!
YOUR WAYS, CRIMINAL? AND WHEN YOU'VE CROSSED THE PLANET WITH YOUR LITTLE GANG OF THUGS. WHAT WILL YOU DO THEN?
BAM!
I WILL CREATE DESOLATION— AND CALL IT PEACE!
CHOK!
THIS INSURRECTION— TREACHERY—
—THE WORST DECEPT—


THAT'S RIGHT, PRIME. WE'RE EVERYTHING YOU SAID—
—AND WORSE!
THOOOOOM!
I DON'T CARE WHY YOU FIGHT TO PROTECT THESE PEOPLE, THIS PLACE, THE OLD WAY. IT MUST CHANGE. I WILL MAKE IT CHANGE.
AND WHOEVER IS IN MY PATH—
—PRIMUS HELP THEM!
UHHH...
I DON'T THINK SO, SENTINEL PRIME.
DOESN'T... *CHK* MATT... TER... *GLKUK* ...DON'T ...MAT-R... *SKK*... OTHERS... *SCHK*... COME...
IT'LL MATTER WHEN THEY SEE WHAT I'VE DONE TO YOU.


THE BOOSTING WORKED—SIR, WE'RE THROUGH TO IACON.
PLEASE CONF*CHHT*, DO YOU *CHHHT* THAT BACKUP, OVER?
INCOMING!
REPORT! ANYONE SEE—
—OH.
PRIME?
...IT'S NO GOOD.
HE ALIVE?
WE'RE DONE HERE.
NEGATIVE ON BACKUP, IACON. REDEPLOY AS AN EVAC TEAM.
THAT'S IT FOR KAON. WE'RE PULLING OUT.

UPDATE—BOOSTED SECURITY FORCE TRANSMISSIONS INDICATE IMMEDIATE RELOCATION OF FIELD ASSETS.
THE ENEMY FLEES.
COMMANDER MEGATRON. THEY WEAR YOUR BADGE. THEY FIGHT FOR YOU.
YOU WIELD AN ARMY—YOU HOLD A CITY—WHAT NEXT?
NEXT, SOUNDWAVE? CHOICES...
WE ARE SPOILED FOR CHOICE BUT ONE. CYBERTRONIAN BY BIRTH. "DECEPTICON" BY CHOICE.
YOU ASK WHAT NEXT?
I HAVE A FEW IDEAS...
END.

Me, Grimlock,™ want MINT!

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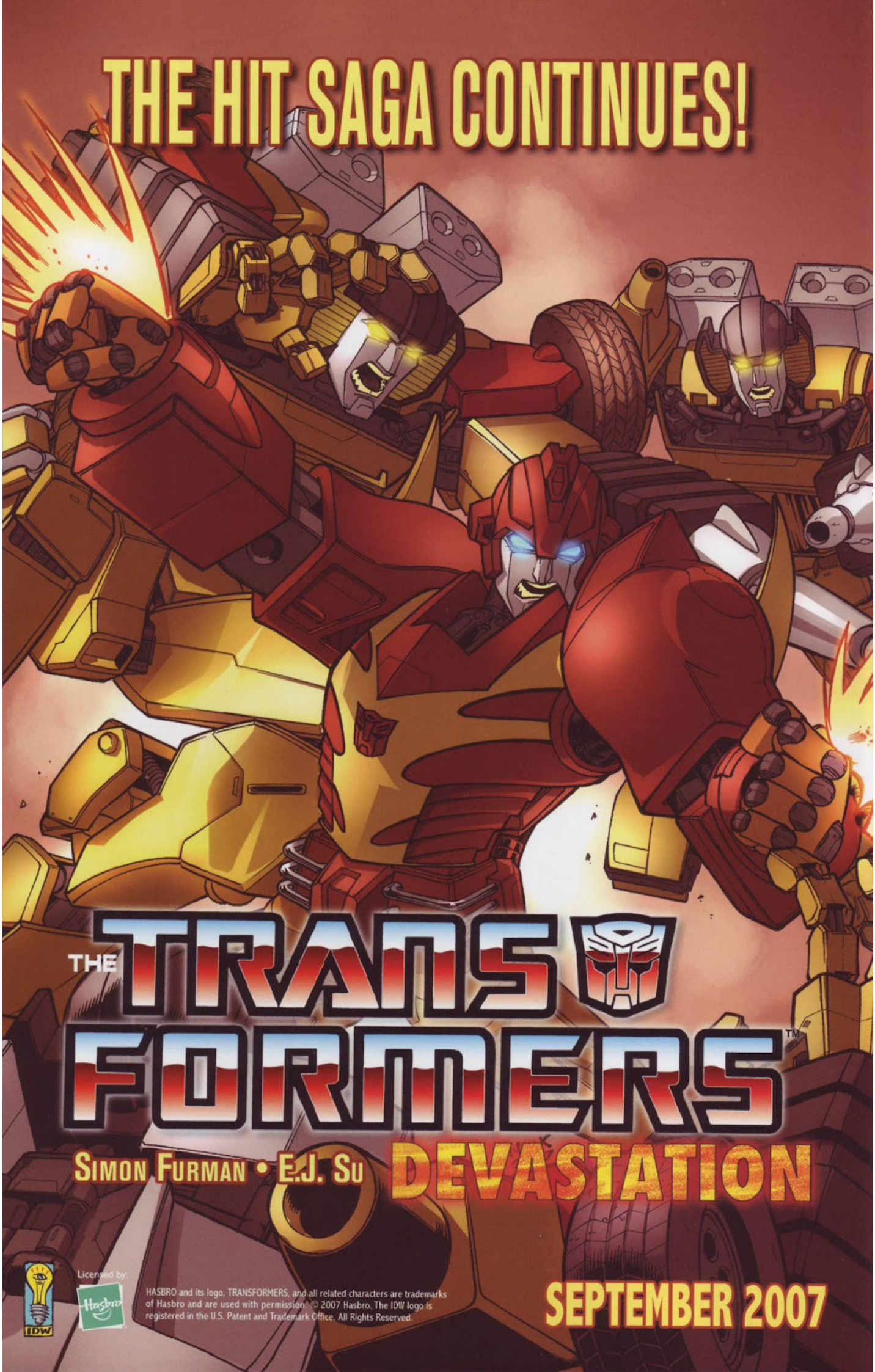
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